

Hafa Adai!

IPI-contracted yacht firms sued for alleged breach of contract. **PAGE 2**
Matson warns first quarter will be weakest of the year. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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MSA raises airfare prices

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The cost of the once budget-friendly interisland air service provided by Marianas Southern Airways has gone up exponentially follow-

ing the termination of its contract with the CNMI government.

As of last week, following the termination of its contract with the CNMI government, Marianas Southern Airways started offering its services at three levels: frugal, friendly,

and freedom.

However, even at MSA's "frugal" level, one-way ticket prices are still double what they used to be prior to the cancellation of the contract.

"After having our agreement cancelled, we could no longer provide our services for the same price. We are now offering three levels of pricing as seen on our website," said MSA vice president William Giles.

According to MSA's website, a one-way ticket from Saipan to Guam now starts

See MSA on Page 4

Bermudes is named DPS chief

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clement R. Bermudes has been appointed commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios also designated last Feb.

See BERMUDES on Page 4



YOUTH CONGRESS ELECTION

Marianas High School vice principal Romolor Orsini, left, and CNMI Youth Congress coordinator Luis John Castro hold a ballot box after the election at MHS yesterday afternoon for the 19th CNMI Youth Congress. MHS has four candidates for a single seat. There are 12 candidates, from both private and public high schools, vying for eight seats. **Story on Page 3**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

2-day vet clinic benefits 48 pets



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins finishes assessing Koko. Collins assisted the Saipan Humane Society and the Dog Control Program staff in a two-day clinic at the Saipan Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido last Saturday and yesterday to address the community's concerns about their pets and to provide treatment, vaccines, microchips, etc.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two-day animal clinic that was conducted by the Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido was able to service a total of 48 pets, thanks to visiting veterinarian Dr. Whitney Collins.

See PETS on Page 4

DUE TO US SANCTIONS MPLT's \$224.4K in Russian bank frozen

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some \$224,000 of the Marianas Public Land Trust's money that's invested in a

Russian banking and financial services company is frozen due to sanctions imposed by

the U.S. Department of Treasury as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In his administrative report last March 1 submitted to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios,

See MPLT on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
207

INSIDE



LOCAL

The crew of USCGC Oliver Henry deliver donated goods to the island communities of FSM.

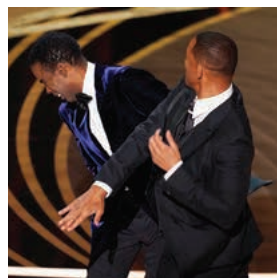
PAGE 7



BUSINESS

Smiley Playland Cafe gives the best of worlds for both parents and their children.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

A year after Will Smith smacked him at the Academy Awards, Chris Rock finally has a rebuttal.

PAGE 15



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Local

IPI-contracted yacht firms sued for alleged breach of contract

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is suing two yacht companies that brought in five yachts to the CNMI pursuant to a business scheme with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC but failed to keep up with its lease payments for use of the CNMI's commercial docks.

CPA recently filed a breach

of contract suit at the Superior Court against Phoenix Services Inc. and Pride Keen Limited, the two companies that IPI had hired to provide VIP amenities to IPI patrons in the form of access to or use of luxury yachts.

According to CPA's lawsuit, Phoenix Services, as the entity that procured the yachts from Pride Keen and signed into a lease agreement with CPA for the use

of Saipan's commercial docks, owes the agency over \$91,000 in delinquent fees.

Robert Torres, who represents CPA in this matter, is asking the court to grant judgment in favor of CPA in the form of damages, with the total to be determined at trial plus interest of 9% per year.

Torres also asks that the court issue an order requiring the luxury yachts, specifically Mariana 4 and Mariana 5,

to remain docked at CPA's Delta dock at the defendant's expense at its current state until judgment for damages is paid in full or until the vessels are sold for the purpose of fulfilling the judgment the court issues.

According to the lawsuit, Phoenix Services leased Charlie Dock 2 from CPA from December 2015 to November 2020. In October 2019, Phoenix Services submitted a bun-

ker application in order to also lease Delta Dock from CPA.

CPA and Phoenix Services

entered into an agreement, with CPA issuing the entity a

See **CONTRACT** on Page 4

Man allegedly barged into ex's apartment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on a man accused of barging into his former girlfriend's apartment and assaulting her.

During a bail hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Trent Mendiola, 42, who is facing charges of disturbing the peace (domestic violence), assault (domestic violence), and vandalism.

Following his bail hearing, Mendiola was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on March 14, for his preliminary hearing. His arraignment was set for March 20.

According to court documents, police arrested Mendiola following a preliminary investigation into a disturbance report in Chalan Kanoa.

The next day, March 3, investigators met with the victim at her residence in Chalan Kanoa where they saw that the door to the victim's room had multiple holes and dents.

In an interview with investi-

gators, the victim said that on the afternoon of March 2, she had another woman over when she heard a knock on her bedroom door. The knocker later identified himself as Mendiola and demanded that the victim open the door for him.

Mendiola, who allegedly trying to force himself into the apartment, asked the victim if there was anyone over, to which she replied yes. This caused Mendiola to kick the door open in and tried to look for the woman, who had jumped off the second-floor balcony and ran away.

Mendiola, in a fit of rage, found an empty liquor bottle and allegedly threw it at the victim, missing her by a few inches.

The victim said she managed to call the police sometime during the altercation, who arrived just in time to get Mendiola out of the apartment.

Police learned that Mendiola is on probation for previous cases involving domestic violence, resisting arrest, assault and battery, and unlawful contact. There is a court order that directs him to stay away from the victim.

Tsunami evacuation planning needs your input

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

To better develop the CNMI's initial tsunami evacuation plans, assembly places, and routes, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Pacific Coastal Research and Planning will be holding town hall meetings across Saipan and are inviting the community to attend and lend their expertise and input on the matter.

The town hall meetings will take place every Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 7 until March 16 in the villages of Achugao, Garapan, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio.

The main discussion of these meeting will be focused on what areas are actually threatened by a tsunami, where one can find a space for assembling during an evacuation, and evaluate and discuss the best routes and evacuation in such assembly areas. HSEM and the PCRP are seeking the community's inputs and expertise on not only planning but also to add if there needs

to be any revision made to the current evacuation zone maps.

The first meeting will kick off today in Achugao and will be held at the Tanapag Middle School, from 5pm to 7pm, then the session for residents of Garapan will have their meeting on Thursday, March 9, at the Garapan Elementary School, also from 5pm to 7pm.

For individuals who reside in Susupe and the areas of Chalan Kanoa close to Susupe, the Marianas High School will be open next Tuesday, March 14, for this event, and for those in San Antonio and Chalan Kanoa, the last session will be held on Thursday, March 16, at the Hopwood Jr. High School. All sessions will be from 5pm until 7pm.

To see the current and monthly updated tsunami evacuation zones for each island in the NMI go to <https://arcg.is/HOP48>.

For more information on the community-based event, or to make special inquiries you may email Mario Kaipat at Mario.Kaipat@cnmihsem.gov.mp or contact Robbie Greene at Robbie.Greene@PacificCRP.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saipan Tribune is among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed.

Also, **66% of CNMI** residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source

72% of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"

DATE BASED ON
NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS

Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News*

*SOURCE

i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council

A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands

<https://www.nmhccouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/>

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12 candidates vying for 8 seats in CNMI Youth Congress election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight public and private high schools, with the supervision and assistance of Legislative Bureau staffers, held the biennial election yesterday for the 19th CNMI Youth Congress, with 12 candidates battling for vacant seats in eight different high schools.

Youth Congress secretary/coordinator Luis John Castro said in an interview yesterday that this year's election is significant as it's been 25 years since the very first CNMI Youth Congress was convened.

"This is a milestone," Castro said.

Six candidates who are running unopposed are already sure winners. They are Ayden Sean Yumul of the Grace Christian Academy, Maili I. B. Peter of Mt. Carmel School, Aden Chonne Hocog Calvo

of Rita H. Inos Junior-Senior High School, Filomenaleonisa T. Iakopo of Saipan International School, Myckiel Josh B. Cabrera of Saipan Southern High School, and incumbent Youth senator Ysabella V. Palacios of Tinian Junior-Senior High School.

At Kagman High School, Jaidiann Justis Cabrera and Vinnie Juan Quitugua Sablan are vying for a single seat.

Marianas High School has four candidates vying for a single seat. They are Peaches Fiona Bayot, Sara Elizabeth Castro Keaton, James Gavriel Matias Mercader, and Jia Ross Bao Nicdao.

When Saipan Tribune left Marianas High School yes-

terday afternoon, MHS officials led by vice principal Romolo Orsini and Legislative Bureau staffers were still counting the votes.

Castro, who visited MHS and other polling sites, said the winners are expected to be known today, Tuesday.

Each youth senator will serve a term of two years.

Castro said over 1,500 students Commonwealth-wide are eligible to vote.

Castro said the senators elected to the upcoming 19th Youth Congress will compose one of the largest bodies of the Youth Congress since the passage of Public Law 17-2, the law that lowered the number of members from the precinct

» **This year's biennial election marks 25 years since the convening of the first CNMI Youth Congress**

and school representatives to school representatives only.

Schools officials, with the supervision and assistance of Legislative Bureau staffers, tabulated the votes at the end of the voting period yesterday.

After the counting of votes, results will be certified by the floor leader of the House of Representatives within three days after the election.

Those considered eligible to vote in the Youth Congress are high school students between the ages of 14 to 18, must be a U.S. citizen, and a student of the school they wish to vote in.

Eligible to run are high school students between the ages of 14-17 years, U.S. citizens, and a student of the school they wish to vote in.

YuriHana Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto of Mount Carmel School is the current speaker of the 18th Youth Congress, while Abriette Patience Taimanao

Manglona of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr.-Sr. High School is the vice speaker. Zenn Ichiro Enriquez Tomokane of Marianas High School is the floor leader. Ysabella Nikonia Rita Villagomez Palacios of Tinian Junior-Senior High School is the legislative secretary, and Tamisha Lia Debrum Sablan of Kagman High School is a member and chairperson of the Committee on Health and Welfare.

Tomokane, Palacios, and Sablan filled the seats last September after former Youth senator Easton Dela Cruz,

former vice speaker Liekeila'akata Iakopo, and former speaker Cielo G. Long left the CNMI for educational and career opportunities.

According to the mission of the Youth Congress, its elected officials are youth representatives in the community whose goal is not only to learn about making policy or being involved in electoral, legislative, and governmental processes, but to go one step further by working to plan, develop, and implement programs that promote real youth progress.

Behind the scenes of Exercise Agile Reaper 23-1



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JULIA LEBENS

Robert Nichols, left, a 673d Air Base Wing planner, U.S. Air Force Maj. Jacob Blasbalg, center, the communications Agile Combat Employment lead planner for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Adam Collins, the logistics lead JBER ACE, pose for a photo at Chulu Beach, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, during Exercise Agile Reaper 23-1, March 2, 2023.

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JULIA LEBENS**
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Public Affairs

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on the 3rd Air Expeditionary Wing, how it is constructed, and how Exercise Agile Reaper 23-1 is conducted.

Members of the 673d Air Base Wing and 3rd Wing joined together to plan and conduct Exercise Agile Reaper 23-1 as the 3rd Air Expeditionary Wing at Andersen Air Force Base and the Northern Mariana Islands, March 1-10.

With a focus on Agile Combat Employment, members of many Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, agencies executed this exercise with support from other Air Force bases. These include Kadena Air Base and Yokota Air Base, Japan; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; and Nellis Air Force

Base, Nevada.

At Andersen AFB, some of these members provide support from the Wing Operations Center, where representatives from the 3rd AEW's A- and Special Staffs work together to ensure the success of this exercise. A-Staff includes functions like force support — including lodging and meal planning, intelligence, maintenance, security forces, and civil engineering among others, while special staff members include functions like the chaplains, legal and Public Affairs.

While personnel at both Andersen AFB and within the Northern Mariana Islands conduct the vital work to keep planes flying, cargo moving, and ground operations going, others work to provide the logistical and intelligence support necessary.

Rapidly moving personnel, material, equipment, and aircraft while providing air

dominance, global mobility, and command and control requires a team with diverse skills able to effectively execute their mission.

"Each directorate really rose to the occasion and owned their functions," said Maj. Jacob Blasbalg, the 673d ABW ACE communication lead planner. "As things came closer to execution, we worked through each problem that came up. It was a huge team effort."

Additionally, members working to provide communication, financial, intelligence, and other logistical support work together alongside a command team made up of 3rd AEW leadership to execute AR 23-1.

This behind-the-scenes work and planning is vital to mission execution, ensuring that every Airman is prepared and able to operate in a contested, degraded, and opera-

tionally limited environment. Additionally, the lessons learned from this exercise will be used to provide the Air Force with the know-how to deploy, maneuver, and project power in austere environments outside of military bases more successfully.

"It's all about one team, one fight," said 3rd AEW Command Chief Master Sgt. Nikki Drago. "When it comes time to do this in real life, we need to be prepared. Everyone has got their piece of the puzzle, you put all of that together to make us a lethal force."

Power service interruption on March 9

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Thursday, March 9, 2023, on Navy Hill, from 9am to 1pm.

■ **Purpose:** For the line crew to perform a system maintenance by replacing a defective power pole to a concrete pole and an airbrake switch along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in front of the Commonwealth Health Corp.

■ **Water well(s) affected:** Calhoun Booster, CH-5

■ **(water services to the Chalan Galaide will be affected)**

■ **Wastewater facility affected:** S8 and temporary bypass behind the WIC program

■ **Traffic light(s):** near CHCC

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that Nicolas Pinaula, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation- CDBG-DR Program, intends to apply for scholarship assistance under the Workforce Development Program (WDP), a recipient of CDBG-DR funds.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-moderate income students intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Pinaula is not and shall not be involved in the handling of the scholarship application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before March 21, 2023.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 27, 2021, Farah Jane Reyes, an immediate family member of Remedio S. Reyes, NMHC employee, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mrs. Remedio S. Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Dated this 7th of March, 2023.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Bill seeks to amend quorum requirement for BOE

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the Board of Education thrice failing to reach a quorum in its last three meetings, Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) are offering a bill that seeks to amend the quorum requirement.

Castro (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Education, and Sablan pre-filed House Bill 23-20 last Friday, March 3, to reduce the BOE's quorum requirements from four to three.

In a news release yesterday, Castro said, "Each year during the budget call we always hear education leaders chant 'Students First.' But it is not enough for leaders to say that

students are important or put student issues on their mental to-do list. They need to walk the walk. Our Public School System must be managed—from the boardroom to the frontline—in ways that optimize talent attraction, retention, and performance."

The BOE serves as the rule-making authority that oversees and implements policies that govern the Public School System. It was unable to meet the quorum requirement during meetings last Feb. 1, Feb. 14, and Feb. 24, which means no decisions were made.

"When the BOE is unable to establish quorum, it puts the entire system in jeopardy. As an autonomous agency PSS is

responsible for making decisions with limited interference from the government.

"With the availability of modern technology and the multiple reasonable accommodations that were made to allow the absent members to appear one way or another, it is unfortunate that some members have elected not to perform their obligations," Sablan said.

The bill will now undergo a review process and will be subject to further discussion and potential amendments before it can be passed into law.

The BOE first failed to organize because two of its five elected members—board member Andrew L. Orsini of Saipan and member Herman

M. Atalig of Rota—walked out of the meeting.

Orsini and Atalig wanted to have a closed-door session, which Atalig voted yes to, but the three others, chair Gregory P. Borja, vice chair Antonio L. Borja, and secretary/treasurer Maisee B. Tenorio, voted no.

Then at their second meeting, Atalig and Orsini were absent due to the former being off-island and the latter being on medical leave. At their last meeting, Atalig and Orsini were absent once again.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada believes that the BOE will come to a quorum soon. "I am confident that they will come together and meet a quorum and meet to discuss."

As of now, even with the

BOE behind a month, operations are still in place. "We are still moving forward. Most of the documents that are time-sensitive, we stamp dates on them so when the board finally comes together and ratifies, we can go back to those stamped dates."

When asked what the BOE needs to act on, Ada said it's the PSS' accountability policy.

The accountability policy is PSS' report card on reading, math, and attendance. Ada said he is hesitant to publish it until the board approves the policy.

"Once the board assembles, that's what we will be looking into," added Ada.

The BOE's next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16.



Castro

BERMUDES

From page 1

28 his special assistant, Brien Sers Nicholas Jr., as the acting director for Procurement Services under the Department of Finance, until further notice.

Bermudes' appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. Until the Senate

takes action, he will be the acting DPS commissioner.

Bermudes was recently promoted dean of the Northern Marianas College Academic Program and Services. He used to chair NMC's Criminal Justice Department.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* last Feb. 10 that Bermudes will be appointed DPS commis-

sioner as he is "very qualified" and has leadership qualities.

"We need some changes at DPS," Apatang said.

Last Feb. 17, Palacios said his administration believes that Bermudes has what it takes to put DPS back together.

The previous DPS commissioner, Robert Guerrero, served for almost eight years.

As for the designation of

Sers Nicholas as acting director for the Division of Procurement Services, the governor asked all department and agency heads to extend full cooperation and assistance to Sers Nicholas as he assumes this additional responsibility.

Then former acting Division of Procurement Services director was Francisco C. Aguon.

MSA

From page 1

at \$197 and goes up to \$269. Previously, MSA offered one-way tickets from Saipan to Guam for \$99. This means a round-trip ticket from Saipan to Guam now cost roughly \$400, nearly as expensive, if not more, than United Airlines' airfare.

Meanwhile, MSA's Saipan to Rota flights now starts at \$109 and can go up to \$129 for a one-way trip. Previously, MSA offered the same service for as low as \$89. At MSA's

"frugal" level, a round-trip ticket from Saipan to Rota now costs roughly \$218.

Fortunately, thanks to MSA's current promotion on flights from Saipan to Tinian, a one-way tickets costs \$39 and can go up to \$49. In addition to the current promotion, if you purchase a one-way ticket to Tinian on any level, you get a second ticket free.

In a separate statement from MSA president Keith Stewart, he said MSA still desires to work something out with the administration so it can continue to provide affordable interisland trans-

portation to the Marianas.

"In an effort and desire to work something out with the government, I would like to respectfully decline to make a comment right now," he said.

Last month, the CNMI administration terminated its \$8-million contract with MSA, citing a lack of funding.

The situation has prompted a concerned citizen to start a petition to save not just MSA but other airlines as well, in the hope that enough signatures will encourage CNMI officials to sit down with these airlines to come to a resolution that will benefit the communi-

ty as a whole.

If you are interested in signing the petition, you may visit: <https://www.change.org/p/save-our-airlines-msa-asiana-others-flyts-to-the-rotasaipan-tinian-guam-overseas>.

Following the contract termination, MSA announced that it hopes to work something out with the government as the worst-case scenario would be that the CNMI loses the airline.

As of last week, members of the CNMI community launched a petition to save MSA.

The petition has now reached over 1,000 signatures.

the health of the island while strengthening the human-animal bond with our pets."

Collins acknowledged that the CNMI is a beautiful place to live but has limited veterinary resources at this time. "For most medical concerns, prevention is often key. This includes maintaining deworming, heartworm, and flea and tick medications, spaying and neutering your pet, as well as feeding a balanced diet as much as possible."

If you are interested in getting an animal on the waitlist for sterilization, vaccination, or other veterinary services, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/saipanhumane>

The next spay/neuter clinic will be from April 10 to 14, and scheduling will begin soon.

Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* after the clinic, "We are so thrilled to see how many people took advantage of coming to this clinic and appreciate that people care for their pets."

She then thanked Collins, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, and the shelter staff for their continued support and assistance.

Collins herself has a message to the community:

"I urge pet owners to take advantage of any veterinary services when available, especially the sterilization clinics. In addition to limited resources, overpopulation is one of the island's biggest concerns. Limiting overpopulation can directly improve animal welfare and

held at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido last Saturday and yesterday with the help of Lauren Cabrera, founder of the non-profit organization Saipan Humane Society and the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter, along with Dog Control Program staff.

Services offered were rabies vaccines—which can only be given by a licensed veterinarian—parvovirus vaccines and kennel cough vaccines for dogs, cat vaccines, microchips, heartworm tests, and a limited supply of flea/tick prevention medicine.

Collins also addressed specific animal health concerns in 15-minute time slots. The cost of services ranged from \$12 to \$25.

PETS

From page 1

Collins, who is no stranger to the CNMI and was a volunteer vet in the spay/neuter clinic last January, said the clinic went well and had an amazing turnout.

"I can tell the community truly cares about their personal pets and shares concern for the animals on the streets. Speaking with the pet owners, it's quite clear the islands need veterinary care and they are appreciative of what the mayor, the Dog Control Program, and the Saipan Humane Society are trying to create here in the CNMI," said Collins.

The veterinary clinic was

MPLT

From page 1

MPLT trustees chair Vianney B. Hocog disclosed that MPLT has \$224,408 invested with Sberbank of Russia through WCM Investment Management LLC, MPLT's non-U.S. equity manager. This amount, however, remain frozen as a result of sanctions imposed by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control against Russia.

Hocog said frozen are \$198,000 and \$26,408 for the MPLT's investment portfolio in the General Fund and American Memorial Park Fund accounts, respectively.

He said these securities are continuously being monitored by Raymond James, MPLT's investment consultant.

Hocog said that in September 2022, the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control implemented sanctions on key economic sectors of Russia's economy.

As of Jan. 31, 2023, MPLT's market value of its investments are \$94,863,878 for the General Fund account, and \$11,237,957 for the American Memorial Park Fund account.

Hocog said they look forward to the opportunities to meet with Palacios and brief him on MPLT's investments of public land lease funds.

Last month, WCM Investment Management LLC operations manager Julianna Jones wrote MPLT to notify it of a sanctioned security that was purchased by WCM in the MPLT's General Fund and Park Fund accounts.

Jones said that, due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control implemented sanctions on key sectors of Russia's economy, including Sberbank of Russia.

To accommodate this sanctioned holding in the accounts, Sberbank was transferred to an escrow account, also known as a segregated account, Jones said.

She said the accounts still have rights to their shares of Sberbank, should it be removed from the sanctioned list and the shares become tradable in the future.

Jones said WCM is actively monitoring the situations and will continue to act in the MPLT accounts' best interests.

CONTRACT

From page 2

revocable permit for the use of Delta Dock. For the use of the dock, Phoenix agreed to pay home port fees per vessel that would be docked there, in addition to a monthly permit fee.

Sometime in March 2020, the business scheme faltered and ceased operations due to the pandemic and Phoenix Services failed to pay for both the use of Charlie Dock 2 and Delta Dock.

CPA entered into an alternative agreement with Phoenix Services soon after reducing the fees for the use of Delta Dock in consideration of the pandemic and its impact on the economy.

Then, in February 2021, Phoenix Services asked for discounts on the monthly permit fee, to which CPA obliged by waiving 50% of the monthly permit fee from October 2020 to March 2021. CPA also provided the company with a draft

of a promissory note for repayments toward past due fees.

On March 30, 2021, CPA and Phoenix Services entered into an agreement regarding the promissory note, with Phoenix Services promising CPA that it would pay its debts from the Charlie Dock lease agreement and the Delta Dock permit. The total amount due to CPA is \$91,827.35.

Phoenix Services has only made two payments toward the promissory note—a \$5,000 payment on April 28, 2021, and another on July 16, 2021, totaling \$10,000.

Phoenix Services has made no additional payments, CPA states, even after CPA's notice of default and demand for full payment on Sept. 29, 2021.

Meanwhile, although Pride Keen had no involvement in the lease agreements, CPA argues that the company has been unjustly enriched as it owns the two vessels that have been docked on Saipan's commercial docks for years, technically for free.

Matson warns first quarter will be weakest of the year

Matson Inc.'s chief executive officer is warning that the current quarter will be the weakest of the year as the company deals with reduced shipping demand.

Matson Inc.'s chief executive officer is warning that the current quarter will be the weakest of the year as the company deals with reduced shipping demand.

The state's largest ocean freight transportation company reported on Feb. 21 that fourth-quarter results exceeded

ed preliminary data that it announced on Jan. 18.

Still, Matson's net income last quarter plunged 80.2 % to \$78 million, or \$2.10 a share. The company earlier had projected its fourth-quarter earnings to come in at a range of \$69.9 million to \$74.8 million and earnings per share to range from \$1.88 to \$2.01. In the year-earlier quarter, Matson earned \$394.5 million, or \$9.39 a share.

Revenue fell 36.7 % to

\$801.6 million from \$1.27 billion.

For the year, Matson's net income increased 14.7 % to \$1.06 billion from \$927.4 million in 2021. Revenue rose 10.6 % to \$4.34 billion from \$3.93 billion.

"We expect Matson's financial performance in the first quarter of 2023 to be the weakest of the year as normal seasonality returns to our domestic tradelanes and Logistics and our China service experiences freight

demand levels below normalized conditions," Matson Chairman and CEO Matt Cox said in a statement. "In the near-term, we expect continued economic growth in Hawaii, Alaska and Guam to be supportive of freight demand."

Hawaii container volume decreased 13 % last quarter from the year-earlier period primarily due to lower retail and hospitality-related demand and one less week. During the October-Decem-

ber period, the company said its retail customers managed inventories to weaker consumer demand levels despite continued improvement in the Hawaii economy supported by a low unemployment rate and relatively strong tourist arrivals, including a modest improvement in international tourist trends.

Matson said for the near term it expects Hawaii's economy to grow due to continued strength in tourism and a low unemployment rate, but that there are negative trends as a result of higher inflation, higher interest rates and the end of the pandemic-era stimulus helping personal income that create uncertainty in economic growth trajectory.

In other areas last quarter, Alaska volume decreased 7.7 % primarily due to lower northbound volume mostly due to one less sailing and one less week, and lower southbound volume primarily due to lower domestic seafood

volume and one less week.

Guam volume fell 14 % primarily due to lower retail-related demand.

China volume tumbled 47.2 % primarily due to lower demand for the company's express services between China and Long Beach, Calif., the discontinuation of its China-California Express (Shanghai-Long Beach-Oakland, Calif.) service in the third quarter, and one less week.

"We expect challenging conditions in the trans-Pacific trade lane in the first half of the year, with freight demand below normalized levels," Cox said in a conference call with analysts. "In the second half of the year, we expect improved trade dynamics as the market transitions to a more normalized level of demand."

Matson's stock finished up 96 cents at \$67.47 on Wednesday. (*The Honolulu Star-Advertiser*)



CNMI WOMEN'S MONTH

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang proclaimed last March 2, 2023, the month of March 2023 as CNMI Women's Month and March 8, 2023 as International Women's Day in the CNMI. They were joined by first lady Wella S. Palacios, special adviser for Women's Affairs Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, Commonwealth Women's Association president Cecilia Taitano Fital, the CNMI Women's Affairs Office, CWA, NMI Girl Scouts, local dignitaries, and members of the community.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Last chance to apply for graduate scholarship in Tokyo

There is one last chance to get information on a full scholarship in Global Environmental Studies at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. With a March 31 deadline to apply for admission and the scholarship, an online information briefing on March 17 is the last chance to learn about this scholarship for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The scholarship will pay all expenses to earn a master's degree in Global Environmental Studies from the Sophia University's Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies. The full scholarship is offered by Sophia University, the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation based in Tokyo, and the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

To find out more please plan on joining the information briefing online via Zoom. It will be on Friday, March 17 at the following times: 1 pm in the Marshall Islands; 12 noon in Kosrae, and Pohnpei; 11 a.m. in Chuuk, Yap; Guam and Saipan; and, 10 a.m. in Palau and Japan.

The Zoom session:
■ <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83626132429?pwd=Sms2MTNMeikyOXg->

5ZDZzd2hWTnkyUT09
■ meeting ID: 836 2613 2429

■ passcode: 065976
The deadline for applying for the scholarship is fast approaching, as is the deadline to apply to Sophia University. The Master's Degree in Global Environmental Studies is offered in English. Sophia University is ranked as one of the top research universities in Japan. (*PR*)


CBMA soliciting assistance for Project: CNMI Restore

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs is notifying civil engineers, contractors, labor unions, and the public that it has solicited no-cost assistance from the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program.


The assistance will include a deliberate civil survey assessment of existing social, economic, governmental, legal, environmental, healthcare, educational, or infrastructure systems within the community for perceived vulnerabilities

and identify areas for future improvements for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the timeframe of spring/summer of fiscal year 2023.

Anyone who has any questions or wishes to express any opposition to military assistance for this project may contact Daniel Aquino, special assistant to the governor for military affairs, at 670-788-0935, or by email at daniel.aquino@gov.mp; or by mail at Caller Box 10007; Saipan, MP 96950. (*PR*)



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Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (01/26/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - A. Welcoming of NCARB Visiting Officials
 - B. 2023 Regional Summit – March 3-4, 2023, Honolulu, HI
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

UOG archaeologist hosts video series as part of CHamoru Month

Guam TV channels will be showing a 14-episode series about archaeology and ancient sites in the Mariana Islands as part of CHamoru Month.

Dr. Michael Carson, associate professor of Archaeology in the Micronesian Area Research Center at University of Guam hosts the series that incorporates his research and lectures.

“The 14 episodes look into what we know so far about the traditional latte sites, about the older sites of ancestral CHamoru habitation in the islands, about pottery artifacts, about specialized studies of ancient DNA and other evidence, and about diverse perspectives in the local community, government offices, museum curation issues, and more,” Carson said.

Each video provides an easy way to learn about what archaeology has revealed so far and what still potentially can be learned, according to Carson.

CWA membership meeting on Thursday

The General Membership meeting of the CNMI Women’s Association is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 6pm, at the CNMI Women’s Center on Capital Hill, located across the Medicaid Office.

The agenda includes the election of the seven-member board of directors. Those interested in serving on the board are asked to submit a copy of their résumé to the CWA staff no later than 5pm on March 8, 2023.

The annual membership fee of \$20 must be paid for members to be able to vote and participate in the upcoming meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the CNMI Women’s Association, sign up using this link: <https://cnmiwomen.org/membership-application-form/>

For additional information, call (670) 233-8978/9411 or email cnmiwomen@gmail.com. (PR)



The House of Taga ruins on the island of Tinian in 2013.

“People can watch the videos in their comfort and convenience to enjoy the latest discoveries and perspectives, without enrolling in a university program or reading textbooks.”

Carson condensed previous classroom presentations and online workshops to focus just on the key points and to encourage people to explore more. The videos also feature experts who will discuss public education and outreach of archaeology, community-based engagement with archaeology, government office management of ancient sites, ancient DNA research, and other topics.

The episodes will be shown on PBS Guam, Channel 12 on DOCOMO Pacific TV, and GTA TV, at 5pm and 5:30pm every Tuesday through Saturday beginning last Saturday, March 4. There will be a repeat airing of certain episodes.

The episodes will also be available through PBS University online. To learn more, go to <https://pbsguam.org/program/pbs-university-and-pbs-university-higher-learning/>

■ “Marianas Archaeology in a Large-scale View”
5pm Saturday, March 4
5:30pm Wednesday, March 8
5pm Thursday, March 23

■ “Sharing Knowledge About Ancient Life, Culture, History and Language”
5:30pm Saturday, March 4
5pm Wednesday, March 22

■ “Ancient DNA and Ancestral Origins”
5pm Tuesday, March 7
5:30pm Thursday, March 9
5:30pm Thursday, March 23

■ “Diverse Perspectives about the Past”
5:30pm Tuesday, March 7
5:30pm Wednesday, March 22

■ “Ancient Overseas Contacts”
5pm Wednesday, March 8
5:30pm Friday, March 10
5pm Friday, March 24

■ “Ancient Pottery of the Mariana Islands”
5pm Thursday, March 9
5:30pm Saturday, March 11
5:30pm Friday, March 24

■ “Traditional Latte Sites of

the Mariana Islands”
5pm Friday, March 10
5:30pm Tuesday, March 14
5pm Saturday, March 25

■ “Household Labor at a Traditional Latte Site”
5pm Saturday, March 11
5:30pm Wednesday, March 15
5:30pm Saturday, March 25

■ “Preserving Cultural Heritage Sites”
5pm Tuesday, March 14
5:30pm Thursday, March 16
5pm Tuesday, March 28

■ “Reclaiming History through Museums” Part 1 of 2
5pm Wednesday, March 15
5:30pm Friday, March 17
5:30pm Tuesday, March 28

■ “Reclaiming History through Museums” Part 2 of 2
5pm Thursday, March 16
5pm Saturday, March 18
5pm Wednesday, March 29

■ “Values of Archaeology for the Future”
5pm Friday, March 17
5:30pm Saturday, March 18
5:30pm Wednesday, March 29

■ “What Can We Learn from Archaeology?”
5pm Tuesday, March 21

■ “Community-based Perspectives in Archaeology”
5:30pm Tuesday, March 21

For more information about the content of the video series and other archaeology work by Carson at the Micronesian Area Research Center, UOG, email mtcarson@triton.uog.edu. (UOG)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/IT-008

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2023 TIME: 5:00PM (CHST)

BROADBAND SERVICES UNDER THE FCC HEALTHCARE CONNECT FUND

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH.I). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ **CORA P. ADA**
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2023

Opening date: **February 20, 2023**

Closing date: **March 10, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN
Position(s): (1) ARFF General Maintenance I
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Lease Compliance Assistant
(1) Information Systems Specialist

SALARY
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr. to \$13.70/hr.)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr. to \$15.85/hr.)
PL 14/1 to 14/12 (\$13.70/hr. to \$23.42/hr.)
PL 15/1 to 15/12 (\$14.38/hr. to \$24.60/hr.)

Location: PORT OF SAIPAN
Position(s): (2) Vessel Traffic Controller

SALARY
PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr. to \$14.38/hr.)

Location: TINIAN
Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer
(1) Custodial-I

SALARY
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr. to \$12.42/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 10, 2023**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

USCIS reaches H-2B cap for second half of FY 2023

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has received enough petitions to meet the H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2023 and is announcing the filing dates for supplemental H-2B visas for the remainder of fiscal year 2023 made available under the FY 2023 H-2B supplemental visa temporary final rule.

H-2B cap for second half of FY 2023

USCIS has received enough petitions to meet the congressionally mandated H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2023. Feb. 27, 2023 was the final receipt date for new cap-subject H-2B worker petitions requesting an employment start date on or after April 1, 2023, and before Oct. 1, 2023. We will reject new cap-subject H-2B petitions received after Feb. 27, 2023, that request an employment start date on or after Apr. 1, 2023, and before Oct. 1, 2023.

On Feb. 27, 2023, the number of beneficiaries for whom USCIS received petitions surpassed the total number of remaining H-2B visas available for the H-2B cap for the second half of fiscal year 2023. In accordance with reg-

ulations, we determined it was necessary to use a computer-generated selection process intended to ensure the fair and orderly allocation of H-2B visa cap numbers available, without exceeding the fiscal year 2023 cap. On March 1, 2023, we conducted the selection process to randomly select petitions from those received on Feb. 27, 2023. Upon completion of this random selection process, we assigned all selected petitions a receipt date and began premium processing services.

We continue to accept H-2B petitions that are exempt from the congressionally mandated cap. This includes petitions for:

■ Current H-2B workers in the United States who wish to extend their stay and, if applicable, change the terms of their employment or change their employers;

■ Fish roe processors, fish roe technicians and/or supervisors of fish roe processing; and

■ Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and/or Guam (until Dec. 31, 2029).

Filing dates for second half of FY 2023 supplemental visas

The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor jointly published a temporary final rule on Dec. 15, 2022, increasing the numerical limit (or cap) on H-2B nonimmigrant visas by up to 64,716 additional visas for all of fiscal year 2023. These supplemental visas are available only to U.S. businesses that are suffering irreparable harm or will suffer impending irreparable harm without the ability to employ all the H-2B workers requested in their petition, as attested by the employer on the DOL Form ETA 9142-B-CAA-7. These supplemental H-2B visas are for U.S. employers seeking to petition for additional workers at certain periods of the fiscal year before Sept. 15, 2023.

Below are the filing start dates for each of the remaining supplemental visa allocations under the temporary final rule:

■ For employers seeking nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti: USCIS will begin accepting petitions for employers requesting an employment start date from Apr. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2023, on March 14,

2023. USCIS began accepting petitions from employers with employment start dates from Oct. 1, 2022, to Mar. 31, 2023, in December 2022. A cap count for this Northern Central American/Haiti allocation is available on the Temporary Increase in H-2B Nonimmigrant Visas for FY 2023 page.

■ For employers seeking workers for the early second half of fiscal year 2023 (Apr. 1 to May 14): USCIS will begin accepting petitions for the additional 16,500 visas made available to returning workers regardless of country of nationality on March 14, 2023.

■ For employers seeking workers for the late second half of fiscal year 2023 (May 15 to Sept. 30): USCIS will begin accepting petitions for the additional 10,000 visas made available to returning workers regardless of country of nationality on April 13, 2023.

USCIS has already announced that we have received enough petitions to reach the cap for the additional 18,216 H-2B visas made available for returning workers for the first half of fiscal year 2023 with employment start dates on or before March 31, 2023. (PR)

USCG delivers 4,500 lbs of supplies to FSM atolls

SANTA RITA, Guam—The crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* returned to Guam on Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, following a weeklong deployment to the Federated States of Micronesia countering illegal fishing and strengthening partnerships with the local island communities of several Yap outer island atolls, part of the ongoing Operation Rematau.

During the patrol, the crew supported FSM partners, completing four port calls and four community relations events. They also provided underway training opportunities for eight members assigned to temporary duty on the ship. They enhanced the ongoing U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy partnership, embarking two medical personnel from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

Partnering with the Ayuda Foundation, the *Oliver Henry* crew unloaded more than 4,500 lbs of supplies generously donated by local businesses and community members in Guam for future transport to remote islands in Ulithi and Woleai atolls. Donated supplies included educational material, clothing, kitchenware, fishing gear, toys, shelf-stable meals, interior paint, marine-grade orange paint, marine fiberglass repair kits, and water pumps. Water pumps were specifically requested to divert standing water from the airfield on Falalop Island, Woleai, to nearby taro fields to facilitate uninterrupted flight services from mainland Yap.

Oliver Henry's first stop was Ulithi Atoll, the second time a fast response cutter visited the atoll. Ulithi was a central U.S. staging area during World War II, and home to a U.S. Coast Guard Loran-C communications station from 1944 to 1965 before operations relocated to Yap and ultimately shuttered in 1987. During the visit, the *Oliver Henry* crew met with community members on the islands of Mogmog and Falalop and



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
The crew of USCGC *Oliver Henry* loads more than 4,500 lbs of donations from the Ayuda Foundation bound for Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia on Feb. 8, 2023.

participated in a friendly basketball game with Outer Islands High School students in Falalop, Ulithi.

Their second stop was Woleai Atoll, which marked the first-ever visit by a fast response cutter to this remote atoll. Ten five-gallon buckets of orange paint were delivered to Woleai and will be further distributed to the outer islands for use on skiffs and small vessels. The Orange Paint Initiative seeks to improve the visibility of small vessels by making their hulls more visible, which is vital to responders in search and rescue instances. In addition to offloading donated supplies and meeting with community members, the *Oliver Henry* crew also rendered assistance by troubleshooting issues with a solar power supply unit and marine radio communications equipment. Further, the *Oliver Henry* crew also deployed an aerial

drone to capture imagery of infrastructure on the principal island of Falalop, Woleai.

"Nothing is more heartwarming for the crew than to experience what we just completed during our visits to Ulithi and Woleai. It was evident the island communities reciprocated these feelings," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, commanding officer of *Oliver Henry*. "They welcomed us with smiles, flower leis, and open arms, and we truly enjoyed their hospitality. Transporting supplies to these remote atolls is nothing new for the Coast Guard, and we are honored to join in on the tradition spanning several decades for Guam-based Coast Guard cutter crews. We thank the Ayuda Foundation for spearheading donation collection efforts and look forward to continued opportunities to strengthen relationships with our brothers and sisters across Micronesia in a manner that



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supports their way of life."

The *Oliver Henry* is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service. During World War II, Henry served under Lt. Cmdr. Carlton Skinner. The latter became the first civilian governor of Guam and played a critical role in developing the Organic Act in 1950. Henry

blazed a trail for minorities in the U.S. military as he climbed from enlisted ranks while serving on 10 Coast Guard cutters, finally retiring as a chief warrant officer in 1966.

Operation Rematau is how U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam supports the overarching Coast Guard endeavor Operation Blue Pacific to promote security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania. *Rematau* means people of the deep sea.

It recognizes the wisdom of the Pacific Island Forum leaders in that securing the future requires long-term vision and a carefully considered regional strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Operation Rematau reinforces U.S. commitment to working together to advance Pacific regionalism based on the Blue Pacific narrative. This action supports U.S. national security objectives, bolstering regional maritime governance and security. (USCG)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

'Dilbert' creator isn't a victim of cancel culture but of the free market

The saga of the comic strip "Dilbert" and the racist rants of its creator, Scott Adams, isn't the out-of-control cancel culture that Twitter boss Elon Musk and others on the right claim. It's actually an example of the free market in action—the free market of newspapers responding to readers who are appalled at Adams' outspoken racism. Adams has the right to those views, but no newspaper or reader has an obligation to support them with attention and money.

Adams has promoted Trumpian conspiracy theories for a while now, but last week he crossed a bright new line into overt racism. Adams' popular comic strip about a dysfunctional office is biting in its treatment of a supervisor portrayed as ignorant, tone-deaf and cruel to those around him—which aptly describes Adams' own behavior during a livestreaming YouTube show last week.

"If nearly half of all Blacks are not OK with white people ... that's a hate group," he said, citing the dubious results of an unscientific opinion poll. "I don't want to have anything to do with them ... the best advice I would give to white people is to get the hell away from Black people."

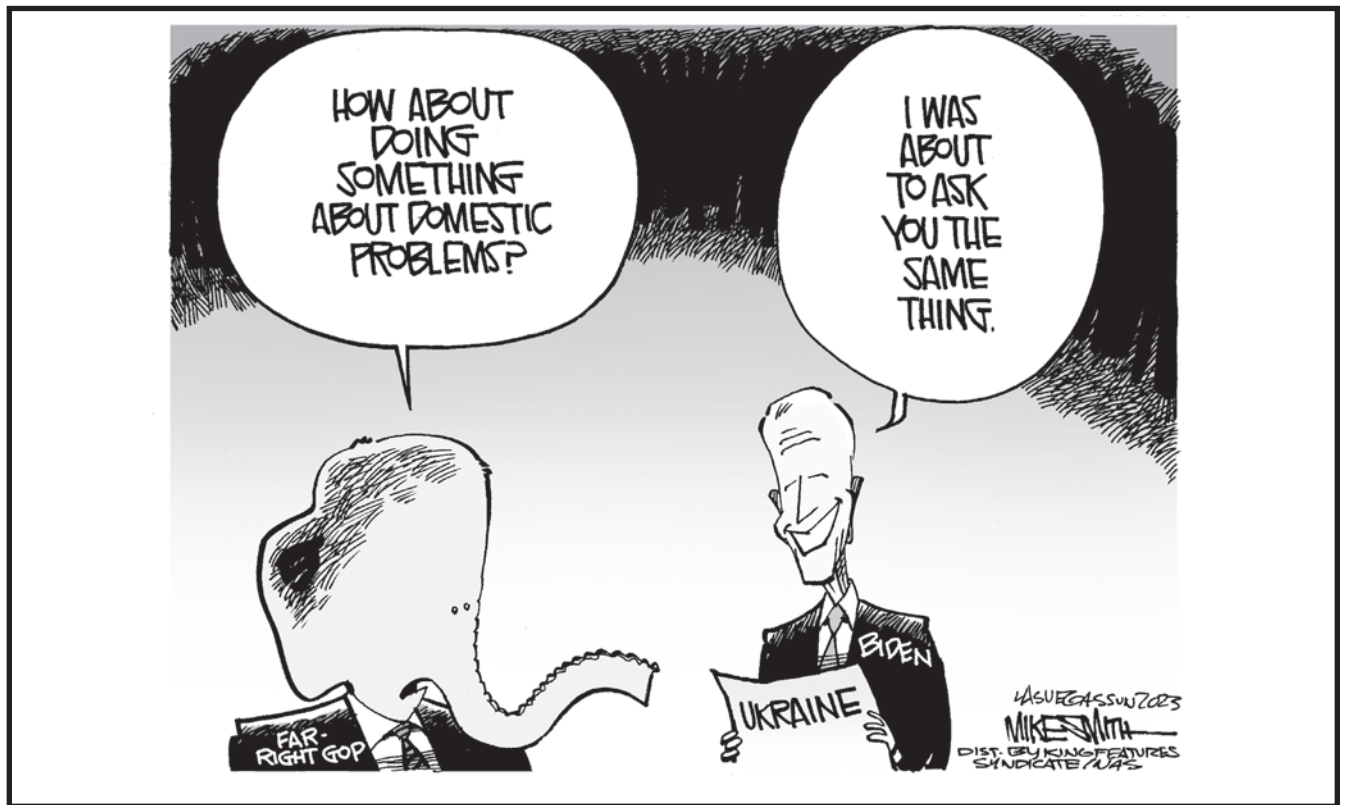
To which numerous newspapers have responded by getting the heck away from "Dilbert." The comic strip, dropped from the Post-Dispatch print lineup last September as part of a comics-page overhaul, was removed from the newspaper's "Go Comics" subscribers-only online portfolio last weekend. The removal is part of an exodus that could ultimately total as many as 2,000 newspapers around the world.

There are a couple of details in the controversy that are worth clarifying. Adams' rant stemmed from a Rasmussen poll which, he said, showed "47% of Black respondents were not willing to say it's OK to be white." As Slate notes, that pollster's methods are suspect and its politics are clearly right-leaning. Also, the poll didn't say what Adams claimed it did. In fact, just 26% of respondents answered "no" to the ill-defined "OK to be white" question, representing fewer than 35 individual Black respondents. Adams lumped them in with a "not sure" category to get his 47% claim. He also failed to mention that the question was worded to invoke a well-known white racist trolling slogan.

Others note that Adams' descent into right-wing darkness didn't happen entirely off the printed page. The editor of the San Francisco Chronicle told The Associated Press that the newspaper dropped "Dilbert" last year after it "went from being hilarious to being hurtful and mean." On The Daily Cartoonist, blogger Mike Peterson argued that Adams let "his politics infiltrate his work" to the point that "the new material was off-topic and not just conservative ... but openly offensive."

It's reasonable for newspapers and the public to reject Adams' once-entertaining work, having finally seen his true colors.

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Leave Roald Dahl alone! Classics for kids don't need to match our delicate sensibilities

There has been a debate raging within my household for months over when my oldest children (ages 6 and 7) will be permitted to watch "The Witches," the 2020 film based on Roald Dahl's fantasy children's novel of the same title.

My girls have been begging to watch it ever since we read the book, which tells the story of a little boy's encounter with the secret worldwide network of child-hating witches.

It was one of our most beloved family read-alouds last summer—probably less on account of my attempt at theatrical narration than on Dahl's colorful characters, vibrant prose and inventive storylines.

While the book's description of the witches was just fantastical enough to keep my kids from having nightmares, I suspect that the movie's depiction might be a bit too scary for them right now.

That's OK. Changes are to be expected with movie adaptations.

But alterations to the original text? That is never something we should expect, let alone accept.

Yet here we are.

It seems that Dahl's publisher, Puffin, in preparing new editions of Dahl's books, felt the need (and believed it had the right) to update the author's words in some apparent bizarre attempt to make them more "sensitive" and "inclusive."

According to Puffin, this was to ensure that the books "can continue to be enjoyed by all today."

Or as the London Telegraph described it, the publishers "have given themselves licence to edit the writer as they see fit, chopping, altering and adding where necessary to bring his books in line with contemporary sensibilities."

Some changes seem trivial—in one instance, "your fanny" has become "your backside"—or peculiar, such as eliminating a reference to the pimples on the witches heads (so as not to offend actual witches? Others are clearly wrought with a progressive agenda in mind, such as an overhaul of language used to identify people by gender, including the frequent replacement of "mother" or "father" with "parent."

Many of the changes soften language that characterizes appearance.

There are, for example, 59 alterations to the text of "The Witches," several of which include references to size, gender and physical attributes—apparently "fat," "mad," "ugly" and even "woman," in certain contexts, are no longer acceptable descriptions of witches, even in a children's fantasy novel.

The textual changes include strange (and often out-of-context) additions as well.

In "The Witches," one change is a transparent attempt to pay homage to women in STEM, which wasn't even a thing at the time the book was first published.

Text that once read: "Even if she is working as a cashier

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.



in a supermarket or typing letters for a businessman," now reads, "Even if she is working as a top scientist or running a business."

And in the novel "Matilda," references to the writings of Rudyard Kipling and Joseph Conrad are eliminated and replaced with references to Jane Austen and John Steinbeck.

Because it's somehow problematic to a child's emotional development to acknowledge that these writers even existed?

It's worth noting that Dahl, who died in 1990, was known to have edited his own texts during his lifetime. Even so, he was said to have been particular about his language choices. And it's hard to imagine he isn't agitating in his grave over the latest modifications to his works.

There is deep irony, of course, in knowing that many of the same elements in society who push for language "inclusivity" to protect kids from the purported "emotional harm" caused by words in children's fantasy novels, are indifferent to or even supportive of efforts to expose children to age-inappropriate content elsewhere.

Indeed, efforts to increase LGBTQ inclusivity are often a guise for introducing sexual content (sometimes explicit) into children's literature at younger and younger ages—long before they are emotionally prepared to handle it.

And those concerned about the harm of "fat-phobia" or the over-emphasis on physical appearance might first consider addressing the scourge that social media is having on young girls, for example.

The dramatic increase in depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation are coming from somewhere, and the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that it isn't "James and the Giant Peach."

The silver lining to this exercise in bowdlerization is that the outrage that has erupted in the days since the changes were announced has borne fruit. Penguin, Puffin's parent company, announced that, based on the debate that erupted, it will make both the updated and the classic texts available to readers.

"We also recognize the importance of keeping Dahl's classic texts in print," the publisher said in a written statement. "Readers will be free to choose which version of Dahl's stories they prefer."

The solution is acceptable, but it is indeed a strange development when readers can choose which version of a children's classic best suits their sensibilities.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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It's not Ukraine's 'peace for our time' moment

Suddenly—or perhaps not so suddenly, after a year of this century's bloodiest fighting—peace in Ukraine is being talked up by the most diverse actors. But since any peace deal at this point would require territorial concessions from Ukraine, only a string of decisive—and utterly unfeasible—Russian battlefield victories could lead the parties to the negotiating table.

The Chinese government's 12-point proposal involves a cessation of hostilities in exchange for an end to “unilateral sanctions” and refers, rather vaguely, to upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

German left-wing politician Sahra Wagenknecht staged a rally in Berlin last weekend where between 13,000 and 50,000 people, according to different estimates, demanded an end to weapons deliveries for Ukraine and the start of negotiations with Russia to prevent further escalation of the conflict, perhaps even to nuclear war. Speakers at the gathering, which attracted supporters of both the extreme left and the hard right, as well as some pacifist centrists, declared that the defeat of a nuclear power such as Russia on the battlefield was impossible, so diplomacy was the only path forward.

“Ukraine must understand: There is no other way but a peace agreement now, without any preconditions,” Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko declared in an interview with Chinese journalists published on Monday. Either that, he added, or Russia will militarize its economy and become unstoppable.

It's easy to dismiss China and Belarus as Russia's allies and Wagenknecht and the other worried Germans as Russian influence agents and useful idiots. But even some serious Western scholars who cannot be accused of being Putin sympathizers have been gently suggesting that it might be time to talk peace. The eminent U.S. historian Stephen Kotkin, who has been firmly on Ukraine's side ever since Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion and who has supported increased supplies of Western weapons to Ukraine, recently told New Yorker editor David Remnick, himself an old Russia hand, that while Ukrainians deserve a chance at a battlefield victory, the endgame is clear:

“Each side has to sit down and make unpleasant concessions, and you have to sit down across from representatives of your murderer, and you've got to do a deal where your murderer takes some of the stuff he has stolen—and killed your people in the process. That's a terrible outcome. But that's an outcome which may not be the worst outcome. The point being that, if you get EU accession, it balances the concessions you have to make.”

Kotkin argues that giving up some territory but gaining European Union membership would qualify as a Ukrainian victory—likely the only kind the country can count on.

Even French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have reportedly urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to start peace talks with Russia, dangling before him the possibility of a defense pact with NATO as a post-war security guarantee. The three supposedly doubt that Ukraine can sustain fighting at the current level indefinitely—something they never say publicly, perhaps because Joe Biden's administration in the U.S. rarely strays from the most militant rhetoric possible. There is, then, an entire spectrum of people, from European politicians such as Scholz and Macron to nuanced, well-informed thinkers such as Kotkin to German pacifists instinctively rebelling against violence to long-time Putin-verstehers and allies to Chinese politicians worried that the sharp polarization caused by the war would unsettle their country's international standing and hurt it economically. While many of them admire Ukrainians' heroism, their thinking—Sunak's as much as Lukashenko's—is rooted in skepticism, even pessimism, about David's chances against Goliath. The war, after all, is raging in Ukrainian territory; how much destruction can the Ukrainian people take for the sake of a full military victory that many see as a pipe dream, anyway?

You can even be optimistic about Ukrainians' military prowess but believe that Russia would rather start a nuclear war than lose—a justified fear given Putin's advanced age and emotional state.

Personally, I have avoided the subject of a compromise in the dozens of columns I have written about the war—not just because I'm Russian and thus, in the modern world, immediately suspect. There are two better reasons not to call for peace talks as soon as possible.

The first is that ultimately, only Ukrainians can decide that they've fought enough and can fight no more—and so far, Ukrainian politicians have no mandate from the nation to give up anything. I know war fatigue is setting in among many Ukrainian civilians and many of the refugees do not plan to come back once the war is over, one way or another. But Ukrainians have always been relatively quick to rebel against leaders who lost touch with society's mood and aspirations. Ukraine's civil society and media are still very much alive—and they are not sending pacifist signals to Zelenskyy.

They are not doing so because fighting and dying on the battlefield—or fleeing to safety while the war makes neighboring countries receptive—is preferable to living under Putin's rule. Putin's Russia is not only unfree, it is callously, cruelly oppressive to its own people; even at home, the Putin regime behaves like an occupying power. Living under it as part of a conquered population is a potential nightmare that I wouldn't wish on anyone but my worst enemies. In that sense, for many Ukrainians the idea of a compromise-based peace can be worse than war: At war you can at least fight back with a weapon in hand.

By **LEONID BERSHIDSKY**

Bloomberg Opinion

Leonid Bershidsky, formerly Bloomberg Opinion's Europe columnist, is a member of the Bloomberg News Automation Team. He recently published Russian translations of George Orwell's 1984 and Franz Kafka's The Trial.



I also know Ukrainians who don't care much under what flag they live and who don't think living under Putin would be worse than under one of Ukraine's famously corrupt and inept governments. They are, however, politically passive by definition—and many of them were the first to flee, to Russia and to Europe.

The other kind of Ukrainians—the active ones—fought when barely any Western weaponry was available and when few in the West believed they could hold out for more than a few days, and they managed to push the invading Russian troops back from Kyiv, Sumy and Chernihiv. Even if the weapons supplies start drying up, they will find ways to fight on, whether as a regular army or as guerillas.

The second reason is that a negotiated ending to the current war that doesn't hand complete control over Ukraine to Putin probably will only put off another invasion. We were here before—in 2015, when the Minsk agreements left Russia in de facto control of parts of eastern Ukraine, not to mention Crimea. It was not enough: Putin wanted more territory and a Ukraine politically subjugated to Moscow, so he struck when he thought his military was ready (it wasn't, quite). If the current war ends with Russia in possession of more Ukrainian land but an even more firmly anti-Russian government in Kyiv, this will be more unfinished business for Putin and any similarly imperialist successor.

Knowing what the Putin regime is like for those who live under it and having closely watched the “Minsk process” and its aftermath, I cannot in good faith hold that Ukrainians would be better off compromising with Putin. Their sacrifice is not blind; they would likely gain nothing by bending. While there is any hope of even a partial military victory—of retaking more territory if not all that has been lost—continued resistance and further losses are acceptable to Ukraine's society. That hope still exists, in part thanks to Western aid but mainly because of the proven ineptitude of Russian commanders, who, unlike their Ukrainian adversaries, haven't shown even a flash of strategic brilliance in twelve months of fighting. Goliath is huge but dumb.

Perhaps Kotkin is right and Ukraine eventually will have to sit down with its “murderers” and negotiate from a position of relative weakness. But not yet.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you!

Editor's Note: Winnie C. Camacho is one of the children of the late Jose Tenorio Cabrera and Maria Aldan Cabrera

As you drive up to the Kileleman Road in As Lito heading to the airport, you will see a newly erected road sign that says: “JOSEN MARIKO PL” on the left side of the road just before you reach the unfinished commercial building.

We, the family of the late Jose Tenorio Cabrera and Maria Aldan Cabrera, would like to express our heartfelt appreciation and *si yuus maase* to former mayor and now Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang who initiated the street naming for our family compound road in As Lito.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt apprecia-

tion and *si yuus maase* to Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho for putting into fruition the naming of our road.

This indeed is an honor to our parents and us the children for naming our family compound road after our parents. It is a lot easier now to tell the direction of our location to our community and our visiting families and friends from afar.

We just hope that this project of street naming will be continued on the entire island for the benefit of the community and our visitors.

Thank you again for a job well done to both Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang and Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho.

Winnie C. Camacho

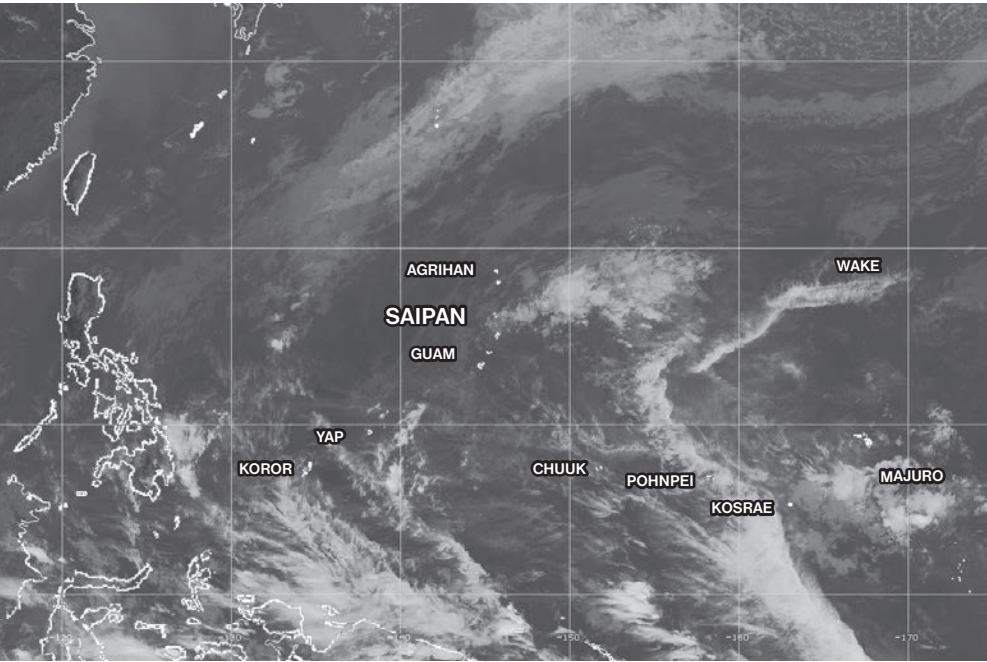
As Lito, Saipan



The newly erected road sign in As Lito. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
85°	78°	85°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:33 AM, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Shower activity has increased over the Marianas so updated forecast to bring in scattered showers earleir than expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:19 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	-	6:54 AM	7:04 PM
Thursday	-	7:29 AM	7:51 PM
Friday	-	8:04 AM	8:41 PM
Saturday	-	8:40 AM	9:32 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 58°	
Beijing	Sunny	69° / 45°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	72° / 64°	
Honolulu	Rain	78° / 69°	
London	Snow Showers	41° / 30°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 42°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	87° / 73°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	73° / 53°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Osaka	Sunny	62° / 43°	
Paris	Cloudy	49° / 40°	
Busan	Sunny	64° / 51°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	60° / 51°	
Salem	Sunny	82° / 62°	
San Francisco	Showers	53° / 43°	
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 43°	
Tokyo	Sunny	64° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	59° / 40°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:51 AM	Low Tide	-0.06	
8:26 AM	High Tide	1.69	
2:12 PM	Low Tide	0.79	
7:30 PM	High Tide	1.73	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW9308	3:50AM	7:20AM	4, 7	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:20PM	2:50AM+1	3, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6,7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:20 A.M.	8:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10:20 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5:00 P.M.	5:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6:00 P.M.	6:40 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:40 A.M.	8:20 A.M.	6,7	8:40 A.M.	9:20 A.M.	6,7
3:00 P.M.	3:40 P.M.	6,7	4:00 P.M.	4:40 P.M.	6,7
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5:30 P.M.	6:30 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7:00 P.M.	8:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:00 P.M.	10:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	6,7	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	6,7
5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	6,7	6:30 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	6,7
ROTA TO GUAM			GUAM TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:20 A.M.	8:55 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9:25 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4:25 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3:30 P.M.	4:05 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7)					

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Best of both worlds at Smiley Playland Cafe

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Smiley Playland Cafe gives the best of both worlds—a relaxing place for parents to kick back and enjoy a smoothie and a snack and a kids playground for their children to exhaust their unbridled energy.

Owner Liming Xu said they opened Smiley Playland Cafe last September as a family-friendly café and play area that offers a unique experience for both children and parents.

“Our goal was to create a safe and fun environment for families to spend quality time together, while also providing delicious food and drinks for everyone to enjoy,” he said.

Smiley Playland Cafe is a one-of-a-kind café and play area that offers a variety of exciting activities for children, including a play structure, ball pit, and trampoline area.

“We also have a separate area for toddlers and infants, as well as a designated seating area for parents to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee/drinks or a meal. In addition to our playland and café, we offer some unique features that set us apart from other kids cafes and playgrounds on the island,” said Xu.

These include an automatic cotton candy machine that creates fluffy, delicious cotton candy with just the touch of a button.

Smiley Playland Cafe also has an instant icy cold drink machine that serves up refreshing slushy beverages to help beat the tropical heat.

To top it off they also have an image-capturing machine that directly “prints” a photo of you or your loved one on the top of your favorite drink.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Smiley Playland Cafe is located next to Ming Li Supermarke along Isa Drive in DanDan.



MARK RABAGO

Smiley Playland Cafe's hot pressed sandwich, hotdog, and customized drink.

“These machines are always a hit with our young customers and add to the overall fun and excitement of the Smiley Playland Cafe experience,” said Xu.

Asked why open a business during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S.-educated Xu said Smiley Playland Cafe simply fills a need in the island community.

“We decided to open our

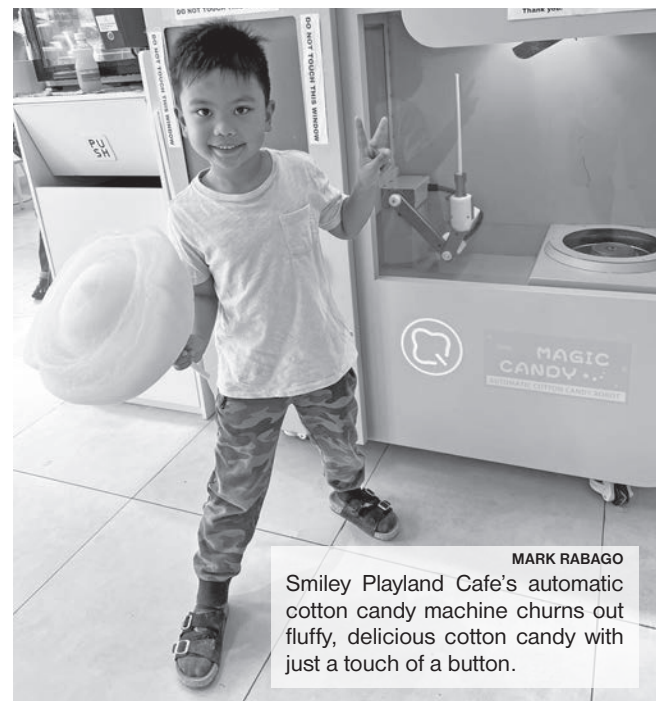
business during the pandemic because we saw a need for a safe and fun environment for families to spend time together. We also wanted to support our local community by providing employment opportunities during a challenging time.”

The Northern Marianas College alumnus did admit that operating a business during the pandemic does come with its

own set of challenges.

“The pandemic has certainly affected our operations, but we’ve taken every necessary precaution to ensure the safety of our staff and customers. We’ve implemented strict cleaning and sanitization protocols, as well as limited capacity and social distancing measures.”

As for promotions, Xu said for \$50 worth of coupons, cus-



MARK RABAGO

Smiley Playland Cafe's automatic cotton candy machine churns out fluffy, delicious cotton candy with just a touch of a button.

tomers will get a free entrance fee at their indoor playground. They also have a loyalty program for regular customers, where they can earn points and receive free entrances/drinks on future visits.

He also invited young parents on the island to try out Smiley Playland Cafe and promised they won't regret it.

“What sets Smiley Playland Cafe apart from other kids cafes and playgrounds on the island is our commitment to providing a safe, clean environment, and comfortable spaces, as well as our focus on offering high-quality food and drinks. And of course our staff is dedicated to making customers feel welcome and comfortable.”

Smiley Cafe Playland is also an ideal venue for hosting parties, as it offers comfortable seating and setup areas that can accommodate up to 50 people. Plus, you won't have to worry about finding a parking spot, as

there are plenty of spaces available. Additionally, you're welcome to bring your own food and drinks to the party.

Smiley Playland Cafe recently became a partner in the Northern Marianas College's ProaPerks Program.

This program allows all NMC employees, students, and alumni to receive a 10% discount on their drinks menu.

“We're thrilled to be able to offer this exclusive discount to the NMC community and look forward to welcoming them to our café and playland,” said Xu.

Smiley Playland Cafe is open seven days a week, 11am-8pm, from Monday to Thursday, and 11am-9pm, from Friday to Sunday. Regular entrance fee to the playground is \$10 for two hours and \$5 for children 1 year and below. Customers can reach them at (670-234-0888) or on Facebook or Instagram for more information.

Biden expected to tighten rules on US investment in China

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—The Biden administration is close to tightening rules on some overseas investments by U.S. companies in an effort to limit China's ability to acquire technologies that could improve its military prowess, according to a U.S. official familiar with the deliberations.

The soon-to-be-issued executive order from President Joe Biden will limit American investment in advanced technologies that have national security applications—such as next-generation military capabilities that could help China improve the speed and accuracy of military decision making, according to the official, who was not authorized to comment and spoke on the

condition of anonymity.

The expected action is the latest effort by the White House to target China's military and technology sectors at a time of increasingly fraught relations between the world's two biggest economies.

In October, the Biden administration imposed export controls to limit China's ability to access advanced chips, which it says can be used to make weapons, commit human rights abuses and improve the speed and accuracy of its military logistics.

The complicated relationship has become further strained in recent weeks after the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon last month that traversed the country. The Biden administra-

tion has also publicized U.S. intelligence findings that raise concern Beijing is weighing providing Russia weaponry for its ongoing war on Ukraine.

The tensions were on display as top diplomats from the Group of 20 industrialized and developing nations ended a contentious meeting in New Delhi on Thursday with no consensus on the Ukraine war and concerns about China's widening global influence dominating much of the talks.

Meanwhile, China this past week blasted the new House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party after it held its first hearing on countering Beijing's influence. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning demanded its members “discard

their ideological bias and zero-sum Cold War mentality.”

Administration officials have been consulting with allies as they've worked on formulating the new regulations on U.S. investment, according to the official.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on Saturday that the Treasury and Commerce departments delivered reports to lawmakers on Friday detailing plans for the new regulatory system to address U.S. overseas investment in advanced technologies. The agencies said they expected to seek additional money for the investment screening program in the White House budget, which is scheduled to be released on March 9, according to the Journal.

Drivers protest plan vs aging PH jeepneys

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine transport groups launched a nationwide strike Monday to protest a government program drivers fear would phase out traditional jeepneys, which have become a cultural icon, and other aging public transport vehicles.

Officials, however, braced with contingencies, including the deployment of government vehicles to take stranded passengers. Other groups refused to join the weeklong strike that could keep more than 40,000 passenger jeepneys and vans off the streets in the Manila metropolis alone.

Protesting drivers and supporters held a noisy rally in suburban Quezon city in the

capital region, then proceeded in a convoy to a government transport regulatory office to press their protest.

“We're calling on the public to support the transport strike in any way possible,” said Renato Reyes of the left-wing political alliance Bayan, which was backing the strike. “The inconvenience of the transport stoppage is temporary, but the loss of livelihood of drivers and operators would be long-term.”

At almost noon, Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista said no major transport disruption had been monitored. Other officials said government vehicles were deployed to carry commuters in some areas but did not immediately provide more details.

Nation

Biden reelection bid faces resistance from some Democrats

LACONIA, N.H. (AP)—Steve Shurtleff was at Joe Biden's side in 2019 when he filed papers in the New Hampshire State House to run for president.

He repeatedly trekked across the state with Biden to court primary voters. And when Biden ultimately won the presidency, it was Shurtleff, then the Democratic state House speaker, who proudly sealed the envelope that carried New Hampshire's four electoral votes—including his own name—to the U.S. Senate.

But on the eve of a new election season, Shurtleff, like a majority of Democrats across the country, feels that one term is enough.

"In my heart of hearts, no," Shurtleff said when asked if he wants Biden to run again. "I think a lot of people just don't want to say it."

Democrats across New Hampshire are upset with the Democratic president for trying to end the state's status as home to the first-in-the-nation presidential primary. But their concerns about Biden run much deeper, in line with a majority of Democratic voters nationwide, who question the 80-year-old president's plans to soon launch his reelection campaign.



Former Democratic N.H. House Speaker Steve Shurtleff, center, listens to then-Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., right, during a campaign stop, Aug. 12, 2016, in Concord, N.H.

Just 37% of Democrats nationwide want the president to seek a second term, according to a poll released last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That was down from 52% in the weeks before last year's midterm elections.

Many worry about Biden's age. Others, like Shurtleff, are upset about the administration's

messy withdrawal from Afghanistan. And the party's progressive wing has never been enthusiastic about Biden, who is perceived as a moderate, despite his lengthy list of achievements.

The White House cast Biden's perceived weakness within his own party as an exaggerated narrative that he has repeatedly proven wrong.

"We're aware pundits' at-

titude toward President Biden is unchanged from before he earned the nomination faster than anyone since 2004, won the most votes in American history, built the strongest legislative record in generations and led the best midterm outcome for a new Democratic president in 60 years," Biden spokesman Andrew Bates said. "Based on comparing the accuracy of our

predictions versus theirs, we are happy for this dynamic to continue."

Still, there's a risk of a disconnect between rank-and-file Democrats and the party's establishment. While voters are signaling unease about the prospect of another Biden campaign, Democratic governors, senators and congressional representatives are virtually unanimous in supporting Biden's reelection.

One exception may be New Hampshire, a small swing state whose electoral votes could be critical in a tight general election. The state has challenged Biden before.

Voters here served Biden an embarrassing fifth-place finish in the 2020 Democratic primary. New Hampshire polls were still open when he decamped to South Carolina, where his presidential ambitions were revived by a decisive win. That state is now Biden's pick to lead the 2024 presidential primary calendar.

Interviews with angry New Hampshire Democrats across state government and local Democratic committees suggest there is some appetite for a seri-

ous primary challenger in 2024. But top-tier prospects don't seem to be interested.

So far, only Democratic activist and author Marianne Williamson has entered the 2024 primary field. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the son of the late New York senator and known for railing against vaccines, met with New Hampshire voters on Friday. He's also leaning toward a bid.

But the likes of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Biden's fiercest primary challenger in 2020, has vowed to back the president in 2024. So has Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, whose appearance at last year's New Hampshire's Democratic convention still comes up in conversation. California Rep. Ro Khanna, a progressive favorite, has also said he would not challenge Biden, although he has been a vocal advocate for New Hampshire's place atop the primary calendar.

In an interview, Khanna said it was "political malpractice" for the Democratic National Committee, under Biden's direction, to threaten New Hampshire's status.

Trump another run, but shies away from attacking rivals

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—Former President Donald Trump cast himself Saturday as the only Republican candidate who can build on his White House legacy but shied away from directly critiquing his potential rivals, including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Trump, giving the headlining address at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, told a cheering crowd that he was engaged in his "final battle" as he tries to return to the White House.

"We are going to finish what we started," he said. "We're going to complete the mission. We're going to see this battle through to ultimate victory."

Though DeSantis, seen as Trump's biggest potential rival, is frequently a subject of name-calling and other attacks in Trump's social media posts and in interviews, he wasn't mentioned directly in Trump's address before conservative activists, who earlier in the day applauded when an old video clip of the Florida governor was shown in a montage.

While CPAC was once a must-stop for candidates mulling Republican presidential runs, DeSantis and other major likely contenders skipped this year's gathering amid scandal and as the group has increasingly become aligned with Trump.

The former president's enduring popularity with this segment of voters was on display throughout the conference this week. Some attendees wore Trump-themed outfits, with "MAGA" hats and sequined jackets.

Members of his family and his presidential administration were swarmed like celebrities in the hallways and dominated the list of speakers. The handful of other potential and declared candidates not named Trump who spoke received only tepid applause.

And the annual CPAC straw poll, an unscientific survey of attendees, found Trump the top choice to be the party's nominee, with 62% support, trailed by DeSantis at 20% and businessman Perry Johnson, who announced his long shot bid at the conference, with 5%.

Nearly all—95% of respondents—aid they approved of Trump's performance as president.

Ahead of his speech, Trump told reporters that he would continue his third presidential campaign even if indicted. He is under investigation by prosecutors probing his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in Georgia and by the U.S. Justice Department, as well as his handling of classified documents, among other issues.

In Selma, Biden says right to vote remains under assault

SELMA, Ala. (AP)—President Joe Biden used the searing memories of Selma's "Bloody Sunday" to recommit to a cornerstone of democracy, lionizing a seminal moment from the civil rights movement at a time when he has been unable to push enhanced voting protections through Congress and a conservative Supreme Court has undermined a landmark voting law.

"Selma is a reckoning. The right to vote ... to have your vote counted is the threshold of democracy and liberty. With it anything's possible," Biden told a crowd of several thousand people seated on one side of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, named for a reputed Ku Klux Klan leader.

"This fundamental right remains under assault. The conservative Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act over the years. Since the 2020 election, a wave of states and dozens and dozens of anti-voting laws fueled by the 'Big Lie' and the election deniers now elected to office," he said.

As a candidate in 2020, Biden promised to pursue sweeping legislation to bolster protection of voting rights. Two years ago, his 2021 legislation, named after civil right leader

John Lewis, the late Georgia congressman, included provisions to restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a campaign finance system that allows wealthy donors to bankroll political causes anonymously.

It passed the then-Democratic-controlled House, but it failed to draw the 60 votes needed to advance in a Senate under control by Biden's party. With Republicans now running of the House, passage of such legislation is highly unlikely.

"We know we must get the votes in Congress," Biden said, but there seems no viable path right now.

The visit to Selma was a chance for Biden to speak directly to the current generation of civil rights activists. Many feel let down because of the lack of progress on voting rights and they are eager to see his administration keep the issue in the spotlight.

Few moments have had as lasting importance to the civil rights movement as what happened on March 7, 1965, in Selma and in the weeks that followed.

Some 600 peaceful demonstrators led by Lewis and fel-

low activist Hosea Williams had gathered that day, just weeks after the fatal shooting of a young Black man, Jimmie Lee Jackson, by an Alabama trooper.

Lewis and the others were brutally beaten by Alabama troopers and sheriff's deputies as they tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge at the start of what was supposed to be a 54-mile walk to the state Capitol in Montgomery as part of a larger effort to register Black voters in the South.

"On this bridge, blood was given to help redeem the soul of America," Biden said.

The images of the police violence sparked outrage across the country. Days later, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. led what became known as the "Turnaround Tuesday" march, in which marchers approached a wall of police at the bridge and prayed before turning back.

President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced the Voting Rights Act of 1965 eight days after "Bloody Sunday," calling Selma one those rare moments in American history where "history and fate meet at a single time." On March 21, King began a third march, under federal protection, that grew by thousands by the time they arrived at the

state Capitol. Five months later, Johnson signed the bill into law.

This year's commemoration came as the historic city of roughly 18,000 was still digging out from the aftermath of a January EF-2 tornado that destroyed or damaged thousands of properties in and around Selma. The scars of that storm were still evident Sunday. Blocks from the stage where Biden spoke, houses sat crumbled or without roofs. Orange spray paint marked buildings beyond salvage with instructions to "tear down."

"We remain Selma strong," Mayor James Perkins said, adding that "we will build back better." He thanked Biden for approving a disaster declaration that helped the small city with the cost of debris cleanup and removal.

Before Biden's visit, the Rev. William Barber II, a co-chair of Poor People's Campaign, and six other activists wrote Biden and members of Congress to express their frustration with the lack of progress on voting rights legislation. They urged Washington politicians visiting Selma not to sully the memories of Lewis and Williams and other civil rights activists with empty platitudes.

Asia



ASIAN BRIEFS

China Premier Li Keqiang bows out as Xi loyalists take reins

BEIJING (AP)—After a decade in Chinese President Xi Jinping's shadow, Li Keqiang is taking his final bow as the country's premier, marking a shift away from the skilled technocrats who have helped steer the world's second-biggest economy in favor of officials known mainly for their unquestioned loyalty to China's most powerful leader in recent history. After exiting the ruling Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee in October — despite being below retirement age — Li's last major task was delivering the state of the nation address to the rubber-stamp parliament on Monday. The report sought to reassure citizens of the resiliency of the Chinese economy, but contained little that was new. Once seen as a potential top leader, Li was increasingly sidelined as Xi accumulated ever-greater powers and elevated the military and security services in aid of the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." Li's lack of visibility sometimes made it difficult to remember he was technically ranked No. 2 in party. Li "was a premier largely kept out of the lime-light by order of the boss," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the London University School of Oriental and African Studies and a longtime observer of Chinese politics. In an era where personal loyalty trumps all, the fact that Li wasn't seen purely as a Xi loyalist may end up being "the main reason why he will be remembered fondly," Tsang said. For most of his career, Li was known as a cautious, capable, and highly intelligent bureaucrat who rose through, and was bound by, a consensus-oriented Communist Party that reflexively stifles dissent.

New plan pushes end to S. Korea-Japan forced labor disputes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea took a step toward improving ties with historical rival Japan by announcing a plan Monday to raise local civilian funds to compensate Koreans who won damages in lawsuits against Japanese companies that enslaved them during Tokyo's 35-year colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The plan reflects conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol's determination to mend

frayed ties with Japan and solidify security cooperation among Seoul, Tokyo and Washington to better cope with North Korea's nuclear threats. President Joe Biden hailed the plan as marking a new chapter of cooperation and partnership between two of the United States' closest allies and said he looked forward to enhancing trilateral ties. Yoon and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida "are taking a critical step to forge a future for the Korean and Japanese people that is safer, more secure, and more prosperous," Biden said in a statement. The plan, however, has drawn immediate backlash from former forced laborers and their supporters, who have demanded direct compensation from the Japanese companies and a fresh apology from the Japanese government. South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin told a televised news conference the victims would be compensated through a local foundation that would be funded by civilian donations. He said South Korea and Japan were at a "new window of opportunity" to overcome their past conflicts and build future-oriented relations.

Funeral of Thai 'cave boy' who died in UK ends with prayers

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP)—Mourners filled a temple chamber for a final prayer session Sunday in northern Thailand for one of the 12 boys rescued from a flooded cave in 2018 who died at school in England last month. Duangphet "Dom" Phromthep, 17, was found unconscious in his room on Feb. 12 at the Brooke House College Football Academy in Leicestershire and died at a hospital two days later. His body was cremated earlier this week during a Buddhist ceremony in England. His cause of death was not known but police said it was not believed to be suspicious. Sunday's prayer session brings an end to a two-day funeral ceremony at the Wat Phra That Doi Wao temple, in the far north border province of Chiang Rai. The temple is located less than 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the Tham Luang Cave, where Duangphet and 11 of his soccer teammates and their coach were trapped for more than two weeks before they were safely guided out by expert cave divers from around the world working with Thai navy SEALs. Arriving from the nearby city of Chiang Mai with pictures

of Duangphet, a floral wreath and his old soccer jersey, players from the Vachiralai Bee School, where Duangphet studied before going to England on a scholarship, gathered in the temple by their classmate's shrine. "In terms of football, he was 100%. He was highly determined. When we gave him his first tryout, his football ability was very good," said Suban Wiboonma, Duangphet's head coach at the school. "We wanted a striker who could score and we got him." Duangphet's ashes are scheduled to be scattered in the Mekong River on Monday.

Philippine governor, 5 others killed in brazen attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen in military uniforms fatally shot a governor and five civilians on Saturday while the provincial leader was meeting villagers at his home in the central Philippines, in the latest brazen assault on local politicians in the country, police said. At least six men armed with assault rifles and wearing military-style camouflage and bullet-proof vests alighted from three SUVs and opened fire on Negros Oriental Gov. Roel Degamo, hitting him and at least five other people in front of his home in Pamplona town. The province has a history of violent political rivalries. Pamplona Mayor Janice Degamo, the wife of the slain governor, said in a Facebook video that the five villagers also died. She demanded justice and said her husband "did not deserve that kind of death. He was serving constituents on a Saturday along with his department heads." A total of 10 suspects were seen fleeing the scene and later abandoned the SUVs, police said. Police set up security checkpoints and launched a province-wide search for the suspects. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. condemned the mid-morning attack, which took place as impoverished villagers gathered in front of Degamo's house to seek medical and other aid. "My government will not rest until we have brought the perpetrators of this dastardly and heinous crime to justice," Marcos said in a statement. Marcos said without elaborating that authorities had gathered "much information and now have a clear direction on how to proceed to bring to justice those behind this killing." He addressed the mastermind and the killers, saying, "We will find you. If you surrender now it will be your best option."

World

Russian shelling hits Ukrainian town; Bakhmut battle rages



AP
Tetiana Hurieieva, the mother of Volodymyr Hurieiev, a Ukrainian soldier killed in the Bakhmut area, cries during the funeral in Boryspil, Ukraine, Saturday, March 4, 2023.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian shelling destroyed homes and killed one person in northern Ukraine's Kharkiv province, the region's governor said Sunday, while fighting raged in the fiercely contested eastern city of Bakhmut.

The town of Kupiansk is about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Russian border; the region has come under frequent attacks even though Russian ground forces withdrew from the area nearly six months ago. Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said at least five homes were razed in the latest attack that left a 65-year-old man dead.

Two civilians were killed over the past day in Bakhmut, Donetsk province Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said. Russian

forces have spent months trying to capture the city as part of their offensive in eastern Ukraine, and the area has seen some of the bloodiest ground fighting of the war.

In recent days, Ukrainian units destroyed two key bridges just outside Bakhmut, including one linking it to the nearby town of Chasiv Yar along the last remaining Ukrainian resupply route, according to U.K. military intelligence officials and other Western analysts.

Associated Press journalists near Bakhmut on Saturday saw a pontoon bridge set up by Ukrainian soldiers to help the few remaining residents reach the nearby village of Khromove. Later, the AP team saw at least five houses on fire as a result of

attacks in Khromove, a nearby settlement.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, assessed last week that Kyiv's actions may point to a looming pullout from parts of the city. It said Ukrainian troops may "conduct a limited and controlled withdrawal from particularly difficult sections of eastern Bakhmut," while seeking to inhibit Russian movement there and limit exit routes to the west.

Capturing Bakhmut would not only give Russian fighters a rare battlefield gain after months of setbacks but might rupture Ukraine's supply lines and allow the Kremlin's forces to press on toward other Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk province.

Crisis over suspected Iran schoolgirl poisonings escalates

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A crisis over suspected poisonings targeting Iranian schoolgirls escalated Sunday as authorities acknowledged over 50 schools were struck in a wave of possible cases. The poisonings have spread further fear among parents as Iran has faced months of unrest. It remains unclear who or what is responsible since the alleged poisonings began in November in the Shiite holy city of Qom. Reports now suggest schools across 21 of Iran's 30 provinces have seen suspected cases, with girls' schools the site of nearly all the incidents. The attacks have raised fears that other girls could be poisoned, apparently just for going to school. Education for girls has never been challenged

in the more than 40 years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran has been calling on the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan to allow girls and women return to school and universities. Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi on Saturday said, without elaborating, that investigators recovered "suspicious samples" in the course of their investigations into the incidents, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. He called for calm among the public, while also accusing the "enemy's media terrorism" of inciting more panic over the alleged poisonings. However, it wasn't until the poisonings received international media attention that hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi announced an investigation into the incidents on Wednesday. On Sunday, Raisi told the Cabinet, following a

report read by Intelligence Minister Ismail Khatib, that the root of the poisonings must be uncovered and confronted. He described the alleged attacks as a "crime against humanity for creating anxiety among student and parents." Vahidi said at least 52 schools had been affected by suspected poisonings. Iranian media reports have put the number of schools at over 60. At least one boy's school reportedly has been affected. Videos of upset parents and schoolgirls in emergency rooms with IVs in their arms have flooded social media. Making sense of the crisis remains challenging, given that nearly 100 journalists have been detained by Iran since the start of protests in September over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

Overdrive

Mooooove over, the Sequoia is bigger than ever!

NUTS & BOLTS

- NUTS & BOLTS
- 2023 Toyota Sequoia
- MSRP: \$78,300
- MPG: 19 city / 22 highway / 19.2 as tested
- As Tested: \$80,906



MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD/TNS
The 2023 Toyota Sequoia is bigger and more brawny.

By MARC D. GRASSO
BOSTON HERALD

As consumers continue to love monster 7-passenger SUVs, Toyota gives its flagship a much needed overhaul. Our tester, the 4WD Sequoia Capstone Hybrid, was handsome, wrapped in Wind Chill Pearl with a piano black and white interior.

When I say big, this vehicle is a monster. As Toyota consumers continue to push the mass-market manufacturer for more and more, we notice excellence inside and out.

With an i-FORCE MAX Twin-Turbo V-6 Hybrid engine

producing 437 horsepower and 583 pound-feet of torque, the Sequoia has no problem flexing its muscles and getting up and going. With five trim levels available, the Sequoia is offered in SR5, Limited, Platinum, TRD Pro and our Capstone tester. Featuring a \$70,000-plus price tag, the Capstone offers that luxury feel Toyota specializes in with their upscale brand, Lexus, but with a “priced-right” price tag and large bang for the buck. Compared to the Chevrolet Tahoe, Jeep Wagoneer and Ford Expedition, the Toyota Sequoia certainly offers that luxury ex-

terior appearance with interior similarities.

Our second-row captains chairs were very comfortable, the third-row seating was spacious and fitting for adult size passengers, while the 14-inch infotainment system was easy to use and to see, and offered a JBL audio system with 14 speakers. Riding on 22-inch wheels, the Sequoia had a great overall ride. They have adjusted their wheel-base over previous generations, which leveled out the top-heaviness of what was previously present -- a great decision and generational update.

AAA: More motorists fear riding in self-driving vehicles

By CHARLES E. RAMIREZ
THE DETROIT NEWS

More drivers this year are afraid of riding in a self-driving vehicle than last year, according to a new AAA survey.

Sixty-eight percent of drivers are afraid of riding in a self-driving vehicle, up from 55% in 2022, the poll found. AAA said it's also the largest annual increase in the survey since 2020.

“We did not expect such a dramatic shift in consumer concerns from previous

years,” Adrienne Woodland, a spokeswoman for the auto club, said Thursday in a statement. “Though it isn’t entirely surprising, given the number of high-profile crashes that have recently occurred from over-reliance on current vehicle technologies.”

The study also found there are a lot of misconceptions about automated vehicles. Nearly one in ten drivers believe they can buy a vehicle that drives itself while they sleep—which isn’t true —ac-

cording to its findings.

AAA said the perception a car can drive itself while its operator is sleeping may stem from social media videos of motorists misusing driver assistance technology.

The survey also found that the names manufacturers have given their vehicle systems confuse consumers. Twenty-two percent of Americans expect driver support systems with names such as Autopilot, ProPILOT, or Pilot Assist can drive a car by itself without any supervision.

Rev it up after starting?

Q : I seem to recall being told many times that one should not rev the engine when first starting it because the oil has not yet reached all the components (or something like that). If that is true, why do engines idle so high when you first start the car? Taping the accelerator pedal doesn't seem to drop the idle speed. Bowing to your wisdom.

A.A., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

A: During cold soak (the industry term for sitting for a while), a little bit of oil slips away from components, but not enough to result in damage when starting. A cold engine needs extra fuel because the gasoline doesn't vaporize easily. In olden days, the choke limited the air, resulting in a richer fuel mixture, and you could tap the gas pedal to release the choke and the high idle. Fuel injection maintains the proper amount of gas and engine speed. You may now kiss the ring.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2021 Subaru Outback and the headlights are aimed too high. The dealership says they cannot be adjusted. Isn't this a safety hazard to the oncoming driver as well as to me from road rage?

J.B., Tully, New York

A: This is a somewhat common complaint. I believe the headlights can be adjusted. All you or your auto tech need is a super long Phillips screwdriver.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have a 2010 Ford Fusion Sport. Love it. The tire pressure sensor fault message comes up on the dash. It has done this before then magically gone away. Recently put on a new set of tires and although not immediately, the fault message

is back. My mechanic says they can hook up a device that can find a fault but somehow if a fault is found on one it can incorrectly give a fault reading on others. So, would it be best just to buy a set of new sensors and replace all instead of finding possibly only one faulty sensor?

D.W., Virginia Beach, Virginia

A: The TPMS (tire pressure monitoring system) sensors for your car come as a 4-pack, which costs about \$50. Get them all and get peace of mind.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I recently had the oil changed in my 2019 Hyundai Elantra GT and when I left the dealer's service area, I noticed a louder than normal “grumbling” from the engine as I accelerated from a stop to 25 or 30 mph. The sound seemed to stop at that point. I love the Elantra, but it's not the quietest ride I've ever had, so I didn't think much of it. This continued for a couple weeks before I decided to go back to the dealer to have it checked out. After about 15 minutes, the service manager came out and told me that the “air box” had been left open, I assume during the oil change. He said that they closed it and that it wouldn't have caused any problems. Sure enough, as I drove away, the grumbling noise was gone. I had never heard of an air box. Is it a real thing? Is it OK to drive when it's open?

R.K., Michigan City, Indiana

A: The air box houses the air filter. It is OK to drive with it open for a while, but not all the time. Your engine doesn't like sucking in dirt. Since the air filter sits beneath the cover, it has been doing its job without its lid.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

A cold engine needs extra fuel because the gasoline doesn't vaporize easily.

Life & Style

Year after the slap, Chris Rock punches back in new special

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

A year after Will Smith smacked him on the Academy Awards stage, Chris Rock finally gave his rebuttal in a forceful stand-up special, streamed live on Netflix, in which the comedian bragged that he “took that hit like Pacquiao.”

The 58-year-old comedian on Saturday night performed his first stand-up special since last year’s Oscars in a much-awaited sequel that had all the hype—and more—of a Manny Pacquiao prizefight. “Chris Rock: Selective Outrage,” streamed live from the Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, marked Netflix’s first foray into live streaming. But it was also a long-awaited comedy counterpunch to Academy Awards infamy.

Rock, performing in all white and with a Prince medallion around his neck, immediately touched on last year’s Oscars

while riffing on “wokeness,” hypersensitivity and what he called “selective outrage.”

“You never know who might get triggered,” said Rock. “Anybody who says words hurt hasn’t been punched in the face.”

But Rock then launched into a series of wide-ranging topics examining contemporary issues, including virtue signaling, high-priced yoga pants, the Duchess of Sussex, the Kardashians, abortion rights, the Capitol riot and what he called America’s biggest addiction: Attention.

“We used to want love, now we just want likes,” said Rock.

Rock, who also riffed on how he’d respond if his father transitioned to a woman (he would support him, Rock said), made clear “Selective Outrage” was not going to be just a Will Smith show. Only occasionally did Rock’s material dovetail with the 2022 Oscars, like it



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

and repeatedly spoken about the incident since last March, Rock has avoided all the usual platforms where celebrities often go to air their feelings. He never sat down with Oprah Winfrey, and turned away the many media outlets that would have loved to land an exclusive in-depth interview.

“I’m a not a victim, baby,” said Rock. “You will never see me on Oprah or Gayle crying. You will never see it. Never going to happen.”

But Rock did use his encounter with Smith to shape and enliven his second stand-up special for Netflix. Some of his best material was on their physical differences.

“We are not the same size. This guy does movies with his shirt off,” said Rock. “You will never see me do a movie with my shirt off. If I’m in a movie getting open-heart surgery, I got on a sweater.”

“He played Muhammed Ali,” added Rock. “I played Pookie in ‘New Jack City.’”

Ultimately, Rock suggested he was just caught in the cross-fire in Smith’s relationship with his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. It was a joke that Rock told about Pinkett Smith that prompted Smith to stride on stage and strike Rock. The comedian on Saturday referenced Pinkett Smith’s earlier confessions of having an “entanglement” with another man while married.

“I did not have any entanglements,” said Rock. “She hurt him way more than he hurt me.”

did when Rock joked about the oddity of Snoop Dogg becoming such a venerated pitch man for advertisers.

“I’m not dissing Snoop,” said Rock. “The last thing I need is another mad rapper.”

But an hour into his set, Rock closed the special with a torrent of material about the notorious Academy Awards moment.

“You all know what happened to me, getting smacked by Suge Smith. Everybody knows,” Rock said. “It still hurts. I got ‘Summertime’ ringing in my ears.”

While Smith has apologized

Prince Harry contacted about coronation; attendance unclear

LONDON (AP)—King Charles III’s office has been in touch with Prince Harry about the new monarch’s coronation, raising the possibility the prince will attend the historic ceremony despite tensions within the royal family.

If Harry and his wife, Meghan, were to attend the May 6 coronation at Westminster Abbey in London, it would be the first meeting between Charles and his younger son since Harry deepened

the rift within the House of Windsor by revealing family secrets in his bestselling book, “Spare.”

A spokesperson for Harry and Meghan, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, confirmed Sunday that Harry had received “email correspondence” from the king’s office about the coronation. Buckingham Palace did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

“An immediate decision

on whether the Duke and Duchess will attend will not be disclosed by us at this time,” the couple’s office said in a statement.

Speculation about whether Harry and Meghan would be invited to the coronation has raged since the release of Harry’s explosive memoir, which contained damning allegations of intrigue behind the palace walls.

The disclosures, including details of private con-

versations with his father and brother, Prince William, fanned tensions between Harry and his family that became public when he and his wife moved to North America in 2020.

The book also included allegations that members of the royal family regularly feed the press unflattering information about other members of the House of Windsor in exchange for positive coverage of themselves.

Mixed signals, new prospect complicate dreamboat romance

DEAR ABBY: Recently I have found myself in a difficult spot. My whole life I dreamed about marrying a college football player and, for the past eight months, I have been in a serious relationship with one. Last week he called me and told me we should take a break.

Immediately afterward, I have met up with a close friend from high school, and I think I may be developing feelings for him. He doesn’t have the great looks my boyfriend has, but he is much kinder to me and he treats me right.

I’m stuck because my boyfriend called me last night saying he wants to talk over dinner, and I think he wants to get back together. Should I stick with my longtime, super-good-looking boyfriend, or leave him for the guy I know will treat me right?

HARD CHOICE IN THE WEST

DEAR HARD CHOICE: You do not marry an occupation; you marry a person. A handsome partner who distances himself from you one week and wants to reconcile the next would make a terrible husband. Take it slow and stick with someone who will treat you right and you will have a far happier life. Trust me.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m 24, married and have no children. I don’t consider myself to be nervous when I’m around children, but when they’re in my home or car, shouldn’t I be allowed to ask them to stop whatever they’re doing without the mother getting upset?

My neighbor and I carpool twice a week to our dance workout classes. Her child was topsy-turvy all over the back seat with her shoes leaving marks on my back window. When I asked the child to please take her feet off the window, her mother, to my surprise, announced that next time she would drive her own car, that SHE was uncomfortable and “hoped my future children would be perfect”! She also remarked that I’m the same way in my home.

Abby, was I wrong not to let it go when I was uncomfortable in my car?

SOILED IN SANTA FE

DEAR SOILED: No, you were not wrong. In case you have forgotten, children are required by law to wear seat belts (or sit in a car seat) when in a moving vehicle. In your car and your home, your rules should prevail. No one should create a mess, and if an accident does happen, the parent should clean it up. The woman overreacted. “Mother of the Year” she is not.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old daughter is a beautiful girl inside and out. She’s caring, loving and sweet to everyone. My only concern is that she still sleeps in the bed with her mom. While I don’t object to this and am willing to sacrifice and sleep elsewhere, should I be concerned about her psychological development?

HER DADDY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR DADDY: Most children in our culture have learned to sleep independently by the age of 2. Your daughter should not have displaced you from your marriage bed for the last 10 years, but that is a separate issue. Because you are concerned about whether the sleeping arrangement is damaging to her psychological development, the resource to consult is a licensed child psychologist.

■■■■■

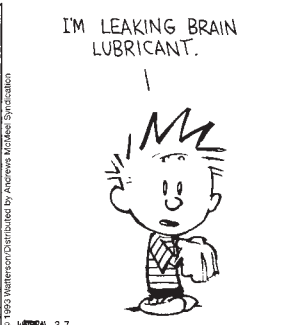
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

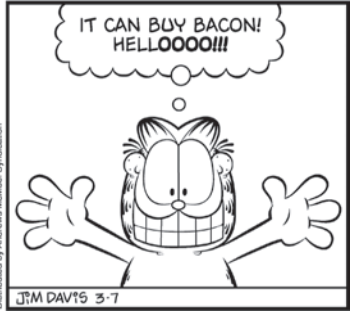


By Bill Waterson



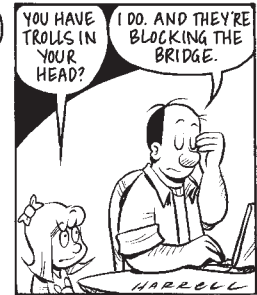
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



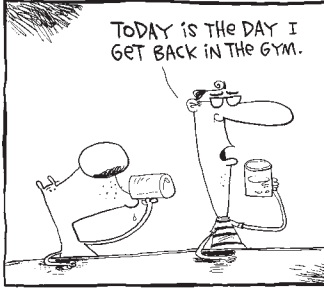
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Author type

5 "Cheers" barkeep

8 Scribbles

12 Tale teller

13 Half of CIV

14 Part of Q.E.D.

15 Dieters may count them

17 Empty truck's weight

18 Ever-green type

19 Yellowish

21 Pablo Casals' instrument

24 Actress Sorvino

25 Lip balm ingredient

26 Was enjoyable

30 Like Abner or Wayne

31 Implores

32 Pair with an air

33 Scape-goats

DOWN

1 TV alien

2 Long of "Soul Food"

3 D.C. base-baller

4 Sock pattern

5 Shredded cabbage dish

6 Goal

7 Projectile

8 Air travel fatigue

9 Spoken tablet

10 Poi base

11 Leftovers recipe

16 — Speed-wagon

20 Sciences' partner

21 Young whale

22 Lamb alias

23 Lounge

24 TV journalist Kelly

26 Pro-ductive

27 Scent

28 Belonging to us

29 Finito

31 Wrinkled fruit

34 Red ink amounts

35 Welsh dogs

37 Kids' card game

38 Shade

39 Con-struction piece

40 Margarita garnish

41 Ale measure

44 Altar constellation

45 Mimic

46 Buddy

47 Cosmo VIPs

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	E	T	A	L	L	I	E	B	B	S
U	M	A	V	I	S	T	A	O	A	T
B	O	U	T	I	Q	U	E	S	U	R
E	A	U	M	E	A	N	E	R		
D	E	B	A	T	E	S	U	E	T	
E	L	O	E	U	R	P	R	I	M	E
C	H	U	M	R	U	R	O	F	U	S
K	T	L	O	S	M	O	W	U	L	T
E	V	E	L	M	A	R	L	E	E	
R	E	V	E	R	E	A	L	E		
A	G	A	B	O	U	N	D	L	E	S
T	A	R	I	N	N	I	E	Y	U	P
E	L	D	A	I	D	A	N	E	V	A

Yesterday's answer 3-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Giselle Eisenberg, 16; Jenna Fischer, 49; Rachel Weisz, 53; Bryan Cranston, 67.

Happy Birthday: Zigzag your way to victory. Be prepared to act, make changes and do things your way. Your fate rides on your ability to reach your target on time. You'll have to spread yourself thin to accommodate what's going on in your personal and professional life. Don't mix business with pleasure or neglect one for the other. Balance and completion are the keys to your success. Your numbers are 7, 13, 24, 29, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, figure out the best way to maintain what you have worked so hard to achieve and don't let anyone come between you and your goal. Having tunnel vision and targeting your skills to get things done on time will pay off. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your experience and know-how to gain insight into bringing about positive change for yourself, someone you love or a cause that concerns you. Call on people who are charitable and have the aptitude required to help. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Distance yourself from anyone trying to persuade you. Put your money, time and effort into personal gain, self-improvement, and being and doing the best you can. Keep any changes you make a secret until you are ready to present. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative to rearrange your space to suit your needs. Having a designated area to explore possibilities will lead to a window of opportunity. A joint venture will tempt you, but first,

do your due diligence and consider working alone. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let what others do confuse you or make you feel that you must follow their lead. Romantic opportunities are apparent but may interfere with prior obligations. Rethink your situation and legal concerns before taking a risk that can jeopardize your reputation or position. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Ignoring situations you must address will worsen matters. Step up, say what's on your mind and implement whatever change is necessary to avoid discord and promote the things you enjoy doing most. Pick up information and skills that offer personal growth. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get into the swing of things and look for opportunities to expand your circle of friends. Taking a day trip, visiting a friend or relative, or learning something that will contribute to your physical well-being or encourage professional gain is within reach. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your best foot forward and show everyone what you offer. Don't give in to someone trying to monopolize your time or spend your money. Say no to bad behavior and poor influences. Concentrate on what brings you joy. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home and the people you love. Refuse to let an outsider influence your beliefs or tempt you with something that may not be valid. Trust and invest in yourself, not someone trying to talk you out of your cash. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Find an outlet for your energy, talent and skills, and you'll find happiness and bring in additional cash. A domestic change will lower your overhead, add to your comfort and ease stress. Curb costly habits; keep your money in your pocket. *****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Adjust to your surroundings and situations and prepare to make concessions that will help others feel at ease regarding prospects. Don't give up on love or someone you no longer see. Reach out, reconnect and discuss your intentions and feelings. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Nothing appears stable, but that can work in your favor if you sidestep controversy and work behind the scenes to get things done on time. Showing confidence will result in support and hands-on help. A partnership will undergo scrutiny. 3 stars



Birthday Baby: You are adventurous, innovative and charitable. You are imaginative and social.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	5		1	6						
				2	7	5	4			
1	7		4		3					
7			5	3		1				
5		8		7	1	3			4	
3		1	2							
8				4		2				
	2	6				7	3	9		
9		7		6	2					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	8	2	1	4	3	9	6
1	6	2	7	3	9	5	8	4
4	3	9	6	5	8	1	2	7
9	1	7	8	4	5	6	3	2
6	4	5	3	2	7	8	1	9
2	8	3	1	9	6	7	4	5
8	5	1	4	6	2	9	7	3
7	9	4	5	8	3	2	6	1
3	2	6	9	7	1	4	5	8

Difficulty: ★★ 3-7
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JOINING A FLOTILLA

Solution: 7 letters

C A M E D I T E R R A N E A N
E A D Y A D I L O H R E T A W
R S T V N E N I R A M B U S E
E P N A E C P C O A S T O S N
P A L E M N Y R T C W E R C R
P S V A C A T I O N E U K Y A
I S O E C I R U M P O E A T M E
K A N H S O L A R C E E N M L
S G T A H S S P N E F L E E T
E E I C V T E F P A D D L E S
A L N A E I A L S P E E D E E
F A L E A D G I D A R S G R
O B R I D G E A B E A C H N O
O N B O A R D T T O U R S A H
D S Y G O L O R O E T E M R S

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Adventure, Anchor, Beach, Boat, Bridge, Catamaran, Coast, Course, Crew, Fleet, Float, Holiday, Island, Lake, Lead, Learn, License, Mediterranean, Meteorology, Motor, Navigate, Ocean, On Board, Paddles, Passage, Propeller, Radio, Range, Route, Safety, Sail, Seafood, Shore, Skipper, Speed, Steer, Submarine, Tours, Vacation, Vessel, Water, Yacht
Yesterday's Answer: Spring
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Durant hits tiebreaking jumper as Suns beat Irving, Mavs



DALLAS (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 37 points, including the tiebreaking jumper with 11 seconds to go, to lift the Phoenix Suns to a 130-126 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday in a thrilling showcase of stars for both teams.

The first meeting between Durant and Dallas' Kyrie Irving since they were traded by Brooklyn before the deadline last month was even when Durant pulled up over Tim Hardaway Jr. and Irving for the lead.

Luka Doncic had 34 points for Dallas, but his point-blank shot for a tie rimmed out before he fouled Durant after the rebound with 3.5 seconds remaining.

After the play was over, Doncic and Devin Booker, who scored 36 points, ended up nose-to-nose and both were issued technical fouls before Durant hit two free throws to clinch the victory.

Irving scored 30 points exactly four years to the day since the last time he faced Durant, when his Boston Celtics blew out Durant and his Golden State Warriors 128-95.

LAKERS 113, WARRIORS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Davis scored 39 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, and Los Angeles held on for a victory over Golden State despite Stephen Curry's 27 points in his return to the lineup.

The Lakers led most of



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving (2) and Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (35) walk down the court during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 5, 2023, in Dallas.

the game but a 3-pointer by Golden State's Anthony Lamb tied it at 91 with 5:37 remaining in the game. Los Angeles ran off seven straight points and would go up 103-95 before 3-pointers by Klay Thompson and Curry made it a two-point game with 1:46 remaining.

That would be as close as the Warriors would get though as they missed three straight from beyond the arc and the Lakers converted at the foul line.

Austin Reaves scored 16 points and Troy Brown Jr. 14 for the Lakers, who have split their four games with LeBron James out of the lineup due to a foot tendon injury.

Curry, who missed 11

games due to a left leg injury, was 3 of 11 from the field with eight points after three quarters but scored 19 in the final 12 minutes. Thompson added 22 points as the Warriors had their five-game winning streak snapped.

KNICKS 131, CELTICS 129, 2 OTs

BOSTON (AP)—Immanuel Quickley scored a career-high 38 points, playing 55 minutes in place of injured starter Jalen Brunson, and New York outlasted Boston in two overtimes for its season-high ninth straight victory.

Quickley had seven points in the second overtime and added eight rebounds and seven assists with Brunson side-

lined because of soreness in his left foot.

Julius Randle had 31 points and nine rebounds, and RJ Barrett finished with 29 points and 11 boards for the Knicks, who held on when Boston's Al Horford front-rimmed a 3-pointer from the right corner just before the final buzzer.

Jayson Tatum led Boston with 40 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, Jaylen Brown scored 29 points and Horford finished with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 135, GRIZZLIES 129

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul George scored 42 points and led a fourth-quarter comeback to help Los Angeles beat Memphis, ending a five-game skid.

Kawhi Leonard added 34 points and 10 rebounds to give the Clippers their first win since the All-Star break.

After getting thrashed in the third when the Grizzlies scored 51 points, the Clippers responded in the fourth.

George and Leonard scored every point in a 17-0 spurt in which the Clippers erased a 10-point deficit and took a 124-121 lead. George had the first eight points and Leonard finished it off with the last nine, hitting a 3-pointer and dunking.

Desmond Bane scored 30 points, Tyus Jones added 25 and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 24 points for the Grizzlies, who were without star Ja Morant. He's away from the team indefinitely while the NBA investigates his social media post in which the All-Star guard appears to be holding a gun.

BUCKS 117, WIZARDS 111

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points, had a season-high

13 assists and rebounded his intentionally missed shot with a second left for his fourth-triple double of the season as NBA-leading Milwaukee beat Washington.

Jevon Carter added 20 points while shooting 6 of 10 from beyond the arc, and Jrue Holiday scored 19 in Milwaukee's victory a night after a home loss to Philadelphia snapped a 16-game win streak.

The Bucks made 22 of their 49 attempts beyond the arc, the most allowed by the Wizards this season, while moving 1 1/2 games in front of Boston for first in the Eastern Conference.

Bradley Beal scored 33 points for the Wizards, who remain 10th in the East and in line for the final play-in tournament spot. Kristaps Porzingis added 24 points and 14 rebounds for Washington, which lost for the second time at home in two nights.

PACERS 125, BULLS 122

CHICAGO (AP)—Tyrese Haliburton scored 29 points, including a 3-pointer with 2.7 seconds left, to give Indiana a victory over Chicago.

Haliburton's game-winning shot occurred after Zach LaVine missed a free throw that would have given the Bulls the lead with 22.6 seconds left. LaVine, who scored a game-high 42 points, was fouled on a 3-point attempt by Benedict Mathurin and converted the first two free throw tries.

After Haliburton's 3-pointer, a game-tying shot attempt by Nikola Vucevic bounced off the rim.

Mathurin added 17 points for the Pacers (29-36), while DeMar DeRozan scored 23 for the Bulls (29-36), who lost despite shooting 60.8% (45-for-74) from the field.

TRAIL BLAZERS 122, MAGIC 119

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Damian Lillard scored eight of his 41 points from the foul line in the final three minutes to lead Portland over Orlando.

Jerami Grant added 20 points, six rebounds and seven assists for the Blazers and Cam Reddish added 16 points.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 26 points. Franz Wagner added 24, and Markelle Fultz finished with 15 points, eight assists and four steals.

NETS 102, HORNETS 86

NEW YORK (AP)—Mikal Bridges went 9 for 9 in a 19-point first quarter, finishing with 33 to lead Brooklyn over Charlotte.

Two nights after coming

from 28 down to beat Boston in the biggest comeback in the NBA this season, the Nets led by as much as 37 after Bridges' fast start in the highest-scoring quarter of his career.

Spencer Dinwiddie added 24 points for the Nets, who have won two straight. Cam Johnson chipped in 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Joe Harris had 12 points.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had 17 points and Mark Williams added 10 points and 14 rebounds for the Hornets, who have lost three consecutive games.

THUNDER 129, JAZZ 119

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 38 points and seven rebounds in his return from a five-game absence and Oklahoma City led all the way while beating Utah.

Rookie Jalen Williams added a career-high 32 points on 12-of-15 shooting and Josh Giddey just missed a triple-double with 24 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for Oklahoma City, which beat the Jazz for the second time in three days. The Thunder also won in blowout fashion on Friday, 130-103.

Utah trailed by double digits for the final 42 minutes of Sunday's game. Jordan Clarkson led Utah with 18 points but missed all five of his 3-point attempts. The Jazz played without All-Star Lauri Markkanen, who sat out with what the team said was a low-back strain.

ROCKETS 142, SPURS 110

HOUSTON (AP)—Jalen Green scored 31 points and Houston beat San Antonio for the second straight night in a matchup of the Western Conference's worst teams.

The Rockets snapped an 11-game skid with a 122-110 win Saturday night in San Antonio and picked up where they left off at home Sunday, leading by as many as 32. They were up by 10 at half-time, used a 35-point third quarter to lead by 21 and to start the fourth and cruised to the victory.

It's the first time Houston has won consecutive games since Jan. 28 and Feb. 1 and leaves the team tied with Detroit for the NBA's worst record at 15-49. The Spurs are just ahead of the Rockets at the bottom of the Western Conference standings at 16-49.

Keita Bates-Diop led the Spurs with 17 points and Keldon Johnson had eight points and five assists in his return after missing two games with a sprained left foot.

NBA BRIEFS

Bucks sign veteran Goran Dragic to add depth to backcourt

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks have signed veteran guard Goran Dragic as they continue adding depth to prepare for the postseason. Dragic, 36, had averaged 6.4 points, 2.7 assists, 1.4 rebounds and 15.4 minutes in 51 games with the Chicago Bulls before getting waived on Tuesday. The 6-foot-3 guard was an All-Star with the Miami Heat in 2018 and a third-team All-NBA selection with the Phoenix Suns in 2014. "He's a great point guard, can score and set the table," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said Saturday night after his team's 133-130 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers. "He's competitive, smart, so we're excited to add him to our group." Dragic has 60 games of playoff experience. He has career averages of 13.3 points, 4.7 assists and 3 rebounds

in 939 career regular-season games with 530 starts.

Grizzlies' Clarke out indefinitely with torn Achilles

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis Grizzlies forward Brandon Clarke tore his left Achilles tendon and will be out indefinitely, the team announced Saturday. Clarke was injured Friday night late in the first quarter of the Grizzlies' 113-97 loss to the Nuggets, a showdown of the top two teams in the Western Conference. Clarke missed a free throw and started limping as he went up the court and fell at half-court. He was helped to the locker room without putting weight on his left leg. The 26-year-old is averaging 10.0 points in his fourth season with Memphis. The team said Clarke is expected to make a full recovery. His injury was announced the same day the NBA handed down a one-game suspension to fellow forward Dillon Brooks, who got his 16th technical

foul of the season with 5:45 left in the game in Denver.

Former NBA player Morrow facing assault, kidnapping charges

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Former NBA player Anthony Morrow is facing charges of assault on a female, assault by strangulation, communicating threats and second degree kidnapping in Charlotte. According to Mecklenburg County Sheriff's office arrest records, Morrow was arrested on Feb. 10 and released two days later on a \$15,000 bond. The 37-year-old Morrow is a Charlotte native who is named North Carolina's "Mr. Basketball" in 2004 while playing at Charlotte Latin High School. He went on to play college ball at Georgia Tech and spent nine seasons in the NBA, mostly as a backup, serving stints with the Warriors, Nets, Hawks, Mavericks, Pelicans, Thunder and Bulls.

Young's height, Richardson's workout all rage at NFL combine

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Bryce Young provided one answer Saturday at the NFL's annual scouting combine: He stands 5-foot-10 1/8 inches and weighs 204 pounds.

Next question: Will his small frame hurt his draft stock?

On a day Anthony Richardson put on an impressive show at Lucas Oil Stadium, Young's numbers will create debate among scouts and team decision-makers about whether Young should be the first player—or the first quarterback—selected on April 27.

Richardson certainly made his case with a 4.43-second 40-yard dash, the fourth-fastest by a quarterback since 2003. The former Florida quarterback also broke the modern combine position record with a 40 1/2-inch vertical jump, and his 10-foot, 9-inch broad jump tied Matt Jones of Arkansas for the best mark by a quarterback since 2003.

Young's numbers, meanwhile, could have the opposite effect.

Typically, teams want franchise quarterbacks to be a little sturdier to remain healthy. Young's measurements would make him one of the league's smallest quarterbacks.

He doesn't believe it's a big deal, though he was listed at 6-0, 194 in college.

"I've been this size my whole life. I know who I am, I know what I can do," Young said Friday when asked about the size issue.

The 2021 Heisman Trophy winner from Alabama has all the other prototypical tools

that franchises seek — strong arm, quick release, good accuracy, mobility and a knack for making big plays, even on the move.

The closest comparisons might be to Kyler Murray, whom Arizona took with the top overall pick in 2019, and Russell Wilson, a third-round pick in 2012 who led Seattle to its only Super Bowl title before landing in Denver last season.

And while the quarterbacks, tight ends and receivers were scheduled to do their on-field drills Saturday in Indianapolis, Young had said he wouldn't join them. The next time scouts will see Young will be at Alabama's scheduled pro day.

Many draft analysts believe Young, former Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud, former Georgia defensive tackle Jalen Carter and linebacker Will Anderson Jr. of Alabama are the four players vying to be selected No. 1 overall.

Stroud performed well in the passing drills and another highly regarded quarterback, Will Levis, showed his arm strength. But Anderson is sticking with his ex-teammate.

"I would say Bryce played in the SEC, one of the best conferences in college football," he said. "Big defensive tackles, big defensive linemen, big pass rushers and took a lot of hits during his years there. I have all confidence in Bryce Young. If I was in the position to take him, I'm taking him."

MORE WORKOUT NUMBERS

Trey Palmer of Nebraska logged the fastest 40-yard dash time among receivers,



Alabama quarterback Bryce Young, right, watches drills with Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell, left, Florida quarterback Anthony Richardson and Ohio State quarterback CJ Stroud at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Saturday, March 4, 2023.

4.33, narrowly outperforming Derius Davis of TCU (4.36).

Four receivers posted vertical jumps of at least 40 inches—Bryce Ford-Wheaton of West Virginia (41), Rashee Rice of TCU (41), Quentin Johnston of TCU (40 1/2) and Jalin Hyatt of Tennessee (40). Hyatt was tops in the broad jump (11 feet, 3 inches), just ahead of Johnston and Demario Douglass of Liberty, who both logged 11-2.

Former Utah cornerback Clark Phillips III had 18 bench reps, tops among his group. Joey Porter Jr. of Penn State and Cory Trice Jr. of Purdue were tied for second at 17.

Will Mallory of Miami (4.54), Zack Kuntz of Old

Dominion (4.55) and Sam LaPorta of Iowa (4.59) had the fastest 40s among tight ends. Kuntz led the position with a 40-inch vertical jump and broad jump of 10-8.

Offensive linemen and running backs work out Sunday.

SUPPORTING CARTER

Defensive tackle Jalen Carter didn't speak to reporters in Indianapolis after Georgia authorities charged him with reckless driving and racing in connection to a fatal traffic accident.

Bulldogs offensive lineman Broderick Jones spoke in support of his friend Saturday.

"When we first met, he was a great dude, real chill,

real calm, cool and collected, like nothing going on," Jones said. "He didn't do too much, just sat around, you know, not into everything that goes on in life. He doesn't do too much. He stays to himself, doesn't bother anybody."

MISSING TEETH

Offensive lineman Cody Mauch came to the combine carrying 303 pounds. But it's what the former North Dakota State player was missing—two front teeth—that got everyone biting.

Mauch explained they were pulled in an emergency room after he collided with a friend during a seventh-grade basketball game and the teeth got knocked loose. The

intended repairs didn't work, either, because either the replacements broke or Mauch lost his retainers.

Eventually, he decided to go without, giving him the trademark look of a hockey player—or Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Nitschke, who also played toothless in green and gold.

"I say that I'm going to get them fixed after football, but I don't even know if I ever will. It's kind of just part of me," he said. "I think every team, every person I talked to here has had some kind of question about it."

THROWING DARTS

Paris Johnson Jr. of Ohio State is ranked as one of the top offensive tackles in this year's draft. But occasionally, he makes a mistake, and he acknowledged Saturday that he made one during an interview with the Bears.

Chicago officials have been asking players whether they'd rather putt golf balls or throw darts. Johnson figured he'd be better off with the dart board. That's when the problems began.

He watched someone in front of him throw three darts—two nearly hit the bull's eye and the third did. Johnson's turn didn't go quite as well.

"The first two hit like some snacks in the corner and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, they're going to end this meeting,'" Johnson said before describing the third shot. "It hit the board, so I was happy. I should have probably chosen golf."

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Mark Evans II feels honored to be at this week's NFL's annual scouting combine.

The former Arkansas-Pine Bluff offensive lineman just believes more players from historically Black colleges and universities deserve to be in Indianapolis.

Nearly three years after the NFL announced its support for enhanced diversity policies and just weeks after the second Legacy Bowl and HBCU combine wrapped up, Evans and Isaiah Land are the only HBCU participants among the 319 invitees. That's half of last year's total of four.

"I feel like they're making progress, but I feel like it most definitely should be more than two," he said Saturday. "I feel like there are a lot of good players out there and I feel like we should be represented more."

Should combine officials ask, Evans has some suggestions: linebacker Jordan Lewis of Southern, Lewis' college teammate and 2023 Legacy Bowl

HBCU players seeking ways to increase numbers at NFL combine

defensive MVP Jason Dumas and North Carolina Central offensive lineman Robert Mitchell.

It's just a start—and he has more suggestions for next year's combine, too.

For now, though, Evans must acknowledge one undeniable fact; two years after no HBCU players were drafted, he and Land look like the best hope of avoiding a repeat.

The 6-foot-2 1/2, 303-pound Texan is scheduled to work out Sunday with the offensive linemen before closing down the combine with Monday's bench press.

But the edge rusher from Florida A&M certainly did his part this weekend. Land measured in at 6-foot-3 1/2, 236 pounds, was clocked in the 40-yard dash at 4.62 seconds, 13th in his position group and just .02 seconds behind former Alabama star Will Anderson Jr., one of the front-runners to be this year's No. 1 overall pick.

"I try to put my best foot forward every time because I just want to give hope to those guys at the HBCU level, like you know you could make it to this point," he said before Thursday's workout. "You've just got to stay consistent, and you've got to have that underdog mentality."

It's a lesson Land, who is from Buffalo, New York, seems to have taken from one of today's top HBCU ambassadors, Indianapolis Colts linebacker Shaquille Leonard. The three-time All-Pro beat the odds by becoming a second-round pick, the 2018 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year and despite an injury-filled 2022 season is still regarded as one of the league's top playmakers.

Few gave him a chance when he started at South Carolina State. Today, he's not only the face and voice of what can be achieved with grit and work, he repeatedly advocates for teams and scouts to keep HBCU pros-

pects on their radar.

He's not alone.

Washington Commanders general manager Martin Mayhew grew up in Tallahassee, Florida, and followed Land's Rattlers, partially because they were local but primarily because Florida A&M was his mother's alma mater. He's been a fan ever since.

"I want to give some shout-out to my old (college) teammate Deion Sanders for shining a light on black colleges and HBCUs," Mayhew said earlier this week. "Florida A&M was a school that I was very familiar with, I watched all their games when I was in high school. They (HBCUs) are getting more views on television. They're much more visible than they were four or five years ago."

So far, the numbers haven't moved much.

Even with help from Sanders, the former Jackson State coach, and Leonard coupled with the NFL's efforts, only four HBCU

players were taken last year—the most in a single draft since 2019.

Fayetteville State cornerback Joshua Williams, the top HBCU selection last season at No. 135 overall (fourth round), made it pay off. He played in all 17 games, made 40 tackles, picked off one pass and earned a Super Bowl ring in his rookie season with the Kansas City Chiefs.

What else would help?

HBCUs have traditionally faced financial challenges with everything from athletic department budgets to educational support, and now face additional concerns in a college world with NIL deals and a transfer portal that makes it easier for Power Five schools to mine talent from smaller schools and conferences across the college landscape.

But Evans thinks he benefited from some of the advantages Arkansas-Pine Bluff presented for him and another alum, four-time Pro Bowl left tackle

Terron Armstead of the Miami Dolphins.

"I feel like I'm able to stand out," Evans said. "When scouts came through, I was able to sit down with them and talk to each and every one of them and I felt that was really important for me to get that experience."

Still, Evans believes more should be done and if he makes an NFL roster he has promised to help provide more exposure on HBCU schools and their players in hopes of restarting the pipeline to the NFL that was so productive in earlier decades.

Land hopes to be part of the solution, too, and he has a simple message for those still playing college football. Accept the challenge.

"I always had a chip on my shoulder when I went against bigger school guys because I just always feel like I've got something to prove," he said. "That's one of the main reasons why I stayed at FAMU was because I knew I could have gone to any other school, but I wanted to stick with them."

Teams set for MS girls playoffs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Teams are set for the final stages of girls middle school soccer in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League playoffs today, March 7, and Thursday, March 9.

The Hopwood Middle School Hilitais, Saipan International School Geckos, Tanapag Middle School Tatagas, and DanDan Middle School Tottots are vying for the tiara starting on Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Lalia Castro, second left, tries to get a handle on the ball in their game against Tanapag Middle School in the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Triple J Saipan 5K registration ongoing

The happiest, most colorful, and foamy 5K is returning to Saipan and registration is ongoing. The Triple J Bubble Color Run is happening on Saturday, March 11 at the Fishing Base Garapan.

Showtime is 5:15am and go time is 6am. The 5K will begin at Garapan Fishing Base behind the Garapan Farmer's Market along Beach Road and proceed south 2.5 kilometers toward the Quartermaster intersection. The turnaround point before the Quartermaster traffic light and back to the finish line.

Race fee is \$10 before race day, \$35 per group of four, and \$15 on race day. Free shirts go

to the first 1,000 registrants, however, shirts are moving fast. Register today at Triple J Motors Beach Road, Hertz/Dollar Car Rental Garapan, Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store Chalan Kanoa, and Surf Rider Hotel Chalan Kanoa.

The grand prize raffle is a round trip ticket to anywhere in Asia or Micronesia courtesy of United Airlines. Free food and beverages from Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store and Great Harvest Bread Co. will also be given away.

Special thanks to United Airlines, Tan Siu Lin, Bank of Guam, *Marianas Variety*, Mobil, Power 99, IT&E, Ahglow

Products USA, Spa Ocean, Latte Built Gym & Fitness, AB Risk Solution, McDonalds, Marpac, Micronesian Brokers Inc., Coca Cola, Docomo Pacific, Island Apparel, Gold's Gym, Sound Hires, Yaong Corp., Ideal Sign, Saipan Computer Services, Matson, and Triple J—Customers First!

Don't miss out on tons of awesome prizes, amazing color splashes, and foamy fun for the whole family.

Follow Triple J Motors Saipan on Facebook or Instagram for race updates. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Commonwealth Cancer Association and Make a Wish Foundation.

Runners are encouraged to car pool. There will be street parking available at Garapan Fishing Base directly across Kristo Rai Church. Please plan on extra traffic and be courteous and safe.

For more information, contact Kristine Lujan at klujan@triplejguam.com or Tina Esteves at marketing@triplejguam.com. (PR)

TSUNAMI

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was able to give him a proper send-off.

He added that if he wanted to, Tenorio could've easily made it to a Division III swimming team with not much difficulty and would even be its top swimmer.

"However, he did not dare to choose such an easy path and chose the challenge of making it a strong team in Division I. It is exactly the Tsunami Saipan spirit! As a coach, that makes me really proud. I be-

lieve Juhn will win the seat of regular member in the future [at Hosei University]."

Aside from Tsunami Saipan members and coaches, the sendoff party was also graced by Hayato Sato, a former Hosei University swimming team leader, who was visiting Saipan.

Other Tsunami swimmers who swam for Division I teams in the U.S. and Japan include Rezne Wong and Kensuke Kimura.

Last month when he started training with the varsity team, Tenorio admitted that it was tough and challenging.

game, both teams were on top of the standings, but the Hilitais had the upper foot in this game.

Just two minutes in, HMS' Yelynn Ha scored their first goal. Not 3 minutes later, teammate Kaye Ann Costales got a piece of the net for a 2-0 game.

It wasn't enough for Ha as she scored again—still without a peep from the Tatagas.

But finally, the Tatagas broke through in the 17th minute for a 3-1 game.

Then, the floodgates opened as the Hilitais' Alyssa Borlongan scored two in a row, followed by a goal from Ha. Borlongan rounded it off with a hat-trick and shut down the Tatagas as time expired.

In the other match last Tuesday, the Geckos handed the ChaCha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus goose eggs, in a 4-0 game.

The champions of the 2021-2022 season of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League were the FMS Napu Riders.



CAROL

From Page 20

shot to her forehand worked. Detecting the points and where her serve was going helped me as well," she said.

Lee thanked her current and past coaches for making her the tennis player she is today. She especially extended her gratitude to her father, Dong Min Lee, for helping her come up with the strategy.

"To my past coaches, my current coaches, to my team, to my country and to my dad. My dad helped me analyze my opponent's game before the match and gave me advice on how to play against my opponent," she said.

While Lee topped Shneider, the Yellow Jackets lost to the Wolfpack, 3-7.

According to ramblinwreck.com, the No. 19 Georgia Tech women's tennis battled to the finish at No. 4 NC State, but dropped a tough 4-3 decision on Friday afternoon. Facing over an hour rain delay, the Yellow Jackets took a 2-1 lead in singles play, but couldn't hold on, falling to 7-3 overall and 2-1 in Atlantic Coast Conference play.

NC State took the doubles point with a pair of 6-2 deci-

sions on courts one and three. Shneider and Alana Smith topped Kylie Bilchev and Alejandra Cruz on court one before the point was clinched on court three. Sophie Abrams and Abigail Rencheli grabbed an early lead over Lee and Rosie Garcia Gross and sealed the match, 6-2, giving NC State a 1-0 match lead.

Lee then quickly evened the match at 1-all, after collecting the aforementioned straight-set win on court one over Shneider. Lee jumped out with a 4-1 lead in the first set, pocketing the opener, 6-1, and went up 4-2 in the second. The Jacket sealed the win, 6-3, to put Georgia Tech on the scoreboard and hand Shneider her first loss of the spring season.

Mahak Jain gave Tech its first lead of the match, downing Abrams on court four in two sets. Leading 3-2 in the first set, Jain extended her lead to 5-2 and took the set, 6-3. Abrams looked to gain momentum in the second set, opening with a 3-0 advantage, but Jain rallied back, knotting the set at 3-all. Jain and Abrams exchanged the next two games for a 4-4 standstill before the Jacket won the next two games to take the match, 6-3, 6-4, and give Tech a 2-1 match lead.

NC State took the next three matches to regain the lead and clinch the match at 4-2. The Wolfpack knotted the match at 2-apiece when Gina Dittman pulled out a 7-5, 6-3 decision over Ruth Marsh on court six before Rencheli topped Garcia Gross on court five, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4.

Rajecki clinched the match for NC State on court three. Facing Cruz, the opponents were on serve at 5-all in the first set. Cruz took a 6-5 lead, but Rajecki forced a tiebreak at 6-6. Cruz dominated the tiebreak, winning, 7-3, to take the set. But Rajecki battled back to win the next two sets to clinch the match, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-3.

Bilchev wrapped up singles play, winning a three-set decision over Smith on court two. Tied at 2-2 to open, Bilchev went up a break at 4-2 and took the first set, 6-3. She battled to the wire in the second set as the opponents stood on serve at 5-all. Smith took the set in a tiebreak (7-4), to force a deciding third set. But Bilchev dominated the final set, 6-1, for her third ranked win in dual play.

The Yellow Jackets closed out this five-match road swing visiting No. 29 Wake Forest last Sunday, March 5.

PICKLEBALL

From Page 20

at the 2014 USAPA. In 2015, he double dipped at the Tournament of Champions, winning the masters singles and also teaming with Matt Staub to win doubles as well.

Then, at the USAPA Nationals Tournament, he won gold in the men's 19+ singles division and men's open doubles, partnering with Matthew Blom, and earned silver in the open singles, establishing him as the top overall player in the game.

Moore co-founded and manages Pickleball Trips, a company taking pickleball players to world-class destinations around the world. He introduced the sport to Japan eight years ago, where there are currently around 300 players. He is an International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association certified

instructor and teaches in the U.S, Japan, China, Spain, France, and Mexico.

Moore is now living in Ueda, Japan, where he is trying to grow the country's interest in pickleball.

He and his father, Scott Moore, have made pickleball a family affair.

In their first match together in 2014, they beat the defending national champions at the Tournament of Champions. They played well together but decided that in 2015 they should split up to play with others their own age.

Both men say they appreciate the mental and physical aspects of the game.

"It is a general equalizer. Speed and power is not as big of a factor as most sports, and therefore a person in his or her 50s can potentially compete with those in their 20s," said Scott, who also enjoys golf, snowboarding, and tennis. "It can be physically challeng-

ing, but it is also extremely intellectually engaging, as you have to be very patient and calculating, almost like a chess game, to think ahead and set up your points in order to gain the advantage."

Daniel, who was once an avid tennis player, agrees. "When you get to the higher levels, it requires so much patience and thinking," he says. "You can't just attack. You have to bide your time, set up the point and pounce when the time is right."

The Moores have played all over the world and have presented clinics in half of the states in the U.S. as well as Spain, Portugal, Japan, and Mexico.

For those who don't know what pickleball is, it is a cross between tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. You can watch to learn more or join their daily night games at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Durant hits tiebreaking jumper as Suns beat Irving, Mavs
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan holds sendoff for Juhn



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI national swimmer Juhn Tenorio was given a sendoff party by Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center Thursday at Saipan Kinpachi Restaurant.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center gave CNMI national swimming team member Juhn Tenorio a fitting sendoff last Thursday at Saipan Kinpachi Restaurant.

Tenorio left Saipan for Japan last Friday as he begins his freshman year at Hosei University, where he also began training with the varsity swimming team last month.

"It was a great time! I spent my last days on the island with the people I care and love the most. I'm grateful that they spent time with me despite their own strict schedule. I was only back for four days but I think we got the most out of it."

I have no regrets left behind," said the 18-year-old Marianas High School alumnus.

As for what he expects in his first year at Hosei University and trying to get into the college's prestigious swimming team, Tenorio said he couldn't be more hyped.

"I feel excited because I finally get to learn what I actually have interest in and I know it will benefit me in the future."



Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiroyuki Kimura wished his ward good luck in his college career, adding that he's glad his home club

See **TSUNAMI** on **Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Juhn Tenorio shows off the Outstanding Leadership Award bestowed to him by Tsunami Saipan.

Carol Lee beats No. 94 in WTA Tour

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Georgia Tech's Carol Lee beat NC State's Diana Shnaider, 6-1, 6-3, last March 3 at the J.W. Isenhour Tennis Center in Raleigh, NC.

Shnaider is ranked No. 94 in the Women's Tennis Association singles ranking and No. 280 in doubles, while Lee is unranked in both singles and doubles.

The former CNMI national tennis player said more than her abilities on the tennis court, it was mental fortitude that carried her to victory against the left-hander.

"It took a lot of belief and mentality to play against a strong opponent. It took not only me but my teammates and my coaches to keep cheering for me and their energy helped me get through this match so I'm always grateful for them," she said.

The 21-year-old senior and alumnae of Saipan Community School said she used a bit of strategy—by taking notes of Shnaider's tendencies—to help her win the match.

"Hitting to her backhand side and then opening up the court to hit an aggressive



Lee

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Pickleball pro to conduct clinic at AMP

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Daniel Moore is the real deal as he is a professional pickleball player and is hosting a pickleball clinic this Wednesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 9.

The clinic is from 8am to 12pm at the American Memorial Park pickleball courts and it costs \$100 for a four-hour lesson.

Moore will then travel to Guam for a two-day training event also.



USA PICKLEBALL

Pickleball pro Daniel Moore is shown in this file photo from 2019.



The visit was arranged by Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands president and pickleball ambassador for Saipan, Dr. Nelson Krum.

The 26-year-old is currently ranked as the 11th top doubles player in the world, with a Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating rating higher than 6.6 and is a nine-time national champion professional pickleball player.

Moore won both the 19+ age and open singles divisions
See **PICKLEBALL** on **Page 19**